The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 37, No. 11, November 2005

Carolina Country

It's the thought that counts

The dumbest gift you ever received

#BXNGZPW******AUTO**3-DIGIT 275
#04411229643000O7# 9 41
N CAROLINA COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY
CB 3930 UNC-CH
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

ALSO INSIDE:

NC Pottery

The North Carolina tradition in a major new exhibit

You're From Carolina Country if...

you know the term "like a duck on a june bug"

Carolina Gardens

Perennial tulips

The Carolina Country Store holiday gift guide is inside

Nature's Pearl™

Muscadine Grape Seed

The SMARTER Grape™

Nature's #1 Source of Antioxidants

Nature's Pearl May Be The Jewel To Better Health!

Nature's Pearl Muscadine Grape Seed may help prevent heart disease, may inhibit the growth of cancer, help reduce joint pains, help slow the aging process and has been shown to help lower "bad" LDL cholesterol, while increasing "good" HDL cholesterol.

Origin of the Muscadine Grape

The first European settlers in the New World were introduced to the pleasures and health benefits of the Muscadine grape by Native Americans, who consumed this wild-growing fruit in wooded areas of the southeastern United States. It is speculated that the first settlers planted over 400 hundred years ago, what today is known as "The Mother Vine" on Roanoke Island, North Carolina.

Photo Courtesy: NC Grape Council

Don't be fooled by other grape seeds... MUSCADINE GRAPES naturally produce VERY HIGH levels of antioxidants.

Grapes commonly grown in Europe and many parts of the US (Vitis vinifera) are grown primarily for wine production, and many varieties often experience milder, cooler climates during their growing season. Without the aid of chemical pesticide sprays, many vinifera varieties would not survive the harsh growing conditions of the Southeastern US.

In sharp contrast, **Nature's Pearl Muscadine Grape Seed** is made from **Muscadine grapes** (Vitis rotundifolia) that grow and thrive in the hot, humid and disease-prone climate of the Southeastern United States. These growing conditions, therefore, make Muscadine grapes very different from vinifera wine grapes.

Like our immune system, which produces more antibodies when under attack, **Muscadine grapes** produce more disease-fighting phenolic compounds **(ANTIOXIDANTS)** when under stress from fungal disease. **Studies on the make-up of the Muscadine grape revealed that the highest levels of these potent compounds are in Muscadine grape seeds.**

Muscadine grape seeds have TWO more chromosomes than wine grapes (40 in Muscadines). That means they have more functional genes and therefore have a greater range of possibilities that distinguish themselves from other grapes. This underwrites their vast range of anti-cancer Ellagic Acid compounds that are not present in wine grapes. The extra chromosomes make **Muscadines genetically** *The SMARTER Grape™* with maximum nutraceutical potential.

Diseases and other health conditions that may be addressed by the daily consumption of Nature's Pearl Muscadine Grape Seed include, but are not limited to the following:

- Allergies
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Arthritis
- Birth Defects
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Cataracts
- Crohn's Disease
- DNA Mutation in Cells
- Diabetes
- Erectile Dysfunction
- Gum Disease
- Heart Disease
- Immune System Decline
- Menopause
- Osteoporosis
- Parkinson's Disease
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Schizophrenia
- Ulcerative Colitis

ORDER TODAY! For Your Body, For Your Health, For Your Life!

Suggested Use: *As a dietary supplement for adults, take 1 - 2 capsules per day. Children as directed by a physician.*

(336) 998 - 2386

www.naturespearlproducts.com

2005 Nature's Pearl, Inc.

Carolina country

Read monthly in more than 550,000 homes

Published by North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
(800) 662-8835
www.carolinacountry.com

Editor
Michael E.C. Gery, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3062*)

Senior Associate Editor
Renee C. Gannon, CCC (800/662-8835 *ext. 3209*)

Contributing Editor
Karen Olson House, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3036*)

Editorial Intern
Jennifer Taylor

Creative Director
Tara Verna, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3134*)

Senior Graphic Designer
Warren Kessler, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3090*)

Contributing Graphic Designer
Dan Kurtz

Business Coordinator
Jenny Lloyd, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3091*)

Advertising Manager
Jennifer Boedart Hoey, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3077*)

Executive Vice President & CEO
Chuck Terrill

Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations
Nelle Hotchkiss

North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 850,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 27 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

All content © Carolina Country unless otherwise indicated.

Member, Audit Bureau of Circulations

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and additional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Carolina Country® is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (ISSN 0008-6746) (USPS 832800)
POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.
Subscriptions: Individual subscriptions, $10 per year. $20 outside U.S.A. Schools, libraries, $6. Members, less than $4.
Address Change: To change address, send magazine mailing label to your electric cooperative.

Carolina Country magazine is a member of the National Country Market family of publications, collectively reaching over 7 million households.

Advertising published in Carolina Country is accepted on the premise that the merchandise and services offered are accurately described and willingly sold to customers at the advertised price. The magazine, North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and the member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted. Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform Carolina Country at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. (919) 875-3062.

Carolina Country is available on cassette tape as a courtesy of volunteer services at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Raleigh, N.C. (888) 388-2460.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

A HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
Selections from the Carolina Country Store.

Jason Dowdle

16 NORTH CAROLINA POTTERY
The historic North Carolina pottery tradition is presented in a major art museum exhibition. Pictured here is a Chester Webster, Four-Gallon Jar, ca. 1850, salt-glazed stoneware, 15 x 11 in. Collection of Quincy and Samuel Scarborough.

18 IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS
Stories of strange gifts you have received. What were they thinking?

ON THE COVER
"It's the Thought That Counts" National award-winning artist Jackie Pittman of Raleigh drew this cover for us. (www.jptoonist.com) See stories about the dumbest gift you ever received on pages 18–20.

departments

First Person 4
Energy conservation is back in style...Also: Where is this in Carolina country?

More Power to You 8
North Carolina co-op crews were busy this hurricane season...Energy-efficiency in the new federal energy legislation.

You're From Carolina Country If 30

Marketplace ..... 32 & 34
A showcase of goods and services.

Joyner's Corner 33
Introducing "Scrambled," a new puzzle.

Carolina Compass 35
November events and exhibits.

Carolina Gardens 38
Perennial tulips.

Energy Cents 40
All about central vacuum cleaners.

Classified Ads 41
New this month: Inflatables for rent.

Carolina Kitchen 42
Family-Style Turkey Potpie, Vegetable Stuffing Bake, Sweet Potato Mini Cakes.

Energy conservation is back in style

By Michael E. C. Gery, editor

It looks like energy conservation is back in style. There's nothing like rising fuel prices to make us think harder about when and how we use energy.

For one thing, the hurricane season has taken its toll on some of the nation's systems for reaching, refining and transporting our oil and gas supplies. In North Carolina, for a brief period after Hurricane Katrina, we even saw vehicles lined up at gas stations and plastic bags on pump handles. For another, demand for petroleum products continues to rise against a supply that sometimes cannot meet it entirely. So we have seen prices rise at the gas pump, which affects any goods and services whose delivery relies on transportation by cars and trucks, trains and planes, even fishing boats. One example is right here at Carolina Country magazine, where twice this year our cost for the paper we print on has risen as the price of energy required to make and move the paper rose. All of us also are seeing prices rise for the fuels that run appliances and systems in our homes, farms and businesses. These dynamics naturally cause us to adjust and manage our use of energy as best we can.

> "Energy conservation never went out of style in our business."

If you follow Carolina Country and the news and information published by your Touchstone Energy cooperative, you know that energy conservation never went out of style in our business. Not a month goes by when we don't publish something on how to conserve energy: tips for watching and controlling the operation of your heat pump and water heater, how to plug energy leaks in your home, how to judge the efficiency of appliances, how to build or renovate buildings that require minimal energy consumption.

As the price of energy goes through its variations, and as the technology of appliances and vehicles changes accordingly, cooperatives will continue to pay attention to smart energy use. It just makes sense. It makes sense to you, considering that you own the utility that supplies your electric power. It's in your interest to make sure that your own plans—and by extension those of your cooperative—include conservative ways of using electricity and all other forms of energy you pay for.

Some of you remember when the nation's highway speed limit was lowered to 55 mph. (I'm trying to think if I can remember that.) You may also remember the "oil embargo," and the 45-mpg VW Rabbit diesel automobile, the rising popularity of wood-burning stoves and furnaces, and President Carter's plea to turn your thermostat back a few degrees in winter and forward a few degrees in summer. We're not likely to see a return to those specific events and trends, but we are likely to see a stronger emphasis on conserving energy, not only in our own consumption practices, but also in how industry designs and builds vehicles, buildings, community infrastructure and appliances. Such a trend can only benefit everyone.

Touchstone Energy cooperatives, both individually and with state and national partners, have been involved for many years in supporting research and testing technology designed to conserve energy. In North Carolina, cooperatives are fully engaged in the work of Advanced Energy Corporation in Raleigh, where cutting-edge research and testing has gone on since 1980 on behalf of utilities, industry and consumers. North Carolina cooperatives also have supported research and have implemented smart energy technology developed on a national level for cooperatives throughout the U.S. and the world.

Carolina Country and the editors of your cooperative newsletters that are published in these pages have scheduled to bring you consumer-oriented articles, guides and illustrations throughout the coming year intended to reinforce the smart use of energy and energy technology. If you have some ideas of what you'd like to see, let us know.

Caitlyn and Christopher with donations at Royal Elementary School.

Collecting for Katrina victims

My children attend Royal Elementary School in Franklin County, and after Hurricane Katrina, Caitlyn, 10, and Christopher, 6, wanted to help the people that were affected. We got a list of items they might need from the Food Bank of NC. The donations came pouring in for two weeks straight, non-stop.

Caitlyn and Christopher also stood out front during car pool line and collected money for the Red Cross. They were amazed by the parents and children so happy to donate. Some children would come up with a can of change and empty it into the Red Cross donation cans. The total collected was $370.

It has been great to see the community come together in such a time of need. I want to thank the teachers, staff, children and parents of Royal Elementary School for their support.

Christine Hawkins
Youngsville

Growing older

As the years go by, I recall some things I've seen and read, and believe you me, the poet was wrong when he wrote, "The best is yet to be."

Along about 40, I received a birthday greeting that said, "It's a sad state of affairs: You're too young to be junked, and too old for repairs."

The message was correct. The middle-age spread came. And each decade thereafter, 10 pounds were added to my frame.

When I asked a nurse friend why I sagged so easily, she replied, "As surely a dog his tail will wag, when we grow old, everything will sag."

Eyesight dimmed and glasses came. I got in a bit of a fix, but I'm very glad I made it to eight-six. And 87, here I come!

Betty Page
Roanoke Rapids

Editor's Note: Betty Page has been sending us excellent peanut brittle each holiday season, so we're publishing her latest note to try to sweeten her up.

Contact us

Web site: www.carolinacountry.com
E-mail: Carolina.country@ncemcs.com
Phone: (919) 875-3062
Fax: (919) 878-3970
Mail: 3400 Sumner Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27616

This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by November 6 with your name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

By e-mail: where@carolinacountry.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611.

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our December issue, will receive $25.

The Winner:

The scene in the October magazine showed a house and yard north of Ashland on the east side of Hwy. 45 in eastern Bertie County (Roanoke Electric service area). Correct answers were numbered and the $25 winner chosen at random was Vicky Hoggard of Merry Hill.

EAT FREE FOR A WEEK

7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners, and 7 desserts for FREE

NEW Scientific Breakthrough

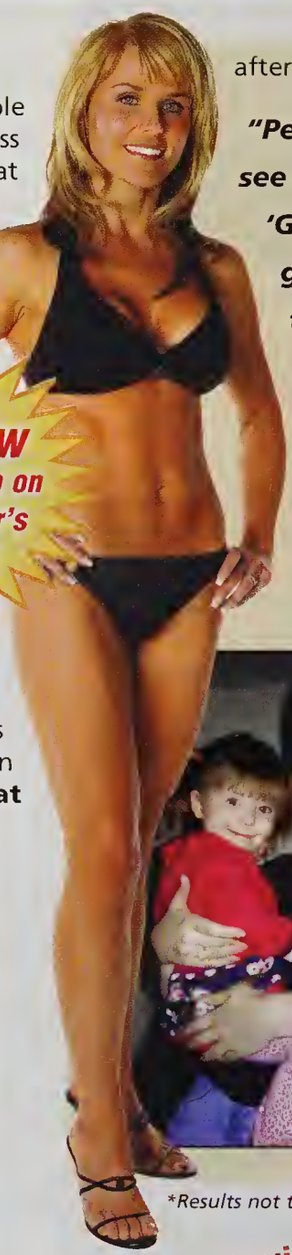
Forget the fad diets—you *CAN* eat carbs and lose weight! It's not magic. People on NutriSystem are doing it with the new NutriSystem® Nourish™ weight loss program. It's based on the incredible **scientific weight loss breakthrough** that gives you **the benefits of a low-carb diet, but still lets you enjoy carbs!**

Take the work out of weight loss!

Imagine the freedom of never having to count carbs or points or anything else. Instead, eat great-tasting food every day without giving up what you love to eat!

- More than 100 great-tasting meals and desserts
- Delivered right to your door
- Meals prepare in just minutes
- No counting calories, carbs or points
- Free membership and counseling, and no center visits
- All for about $10 a day

Start now and get a jump on your New Year's resolution!



after

"People would see me and say, 'Gosh, you look great for having three kids,' but I just wanted to look great, period!"
–Amanda

before

Lost 35 lbs.*

*Results not typical

Get a week of food FREE!

That's right—order from us today and get a **FULL WEEK** of the NutriSystem foods **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** Start losing weight, safely and sensibly with foods that are low in fat and rich in "good carbs," which means they measure low on the Glycemic Index to keep your blood sugar levels stable. **You burn more fat and eat the foods you love!**

Zora LOST 20 LBS.*

Tammy LOST 125 LBS.*

Rotini with Meatballs

nutrisystem® nourish™

Select the NEW 28-Day Program and get an additional

WEEK OF FOOD FOR FREE!

That's 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners, and 7 desserts for FREE!

Just call **1-888-894-THIN** or visit **nutrisystem.com/ad** to get started today.

Please use the promo code: **NCC105** to get this offer. Limited time offer.

Limit one per customer. Cannot be combined with any other current or prior offers or discounts.

www.ncgreenpower.org

Protecting our greatest resources.

Improving our community and our environment are important responsibilities that all of us share. At NC GreenPower, we are working to help North Carolinians fulfill that mission through the use of cleaner renewable energy generated right here in our state.

You have the power to change the way we use our natural resources and to help protect the environment now and for generations to come. Visit NC GreenPower online to learn more about the program or to sign up. And give the gift of renewable energy to someone you care about with the NC GreenPower gift card. Find out more at www.ncgreenpower.org.

Renewable energy – available to you through NC GreenPower. Make the choice to plug in to nature. It's the natural thing to do.

866-533-NCGP | 919-716-6380 | www.ncgreenpower.org

NC GreenPower

Cooperative Campaign Academy can get candidates on track

The rigors of running for political office can overwhelm first-time candidates, even for small local races. That's why North Carolina's electric cooperatives offer a program to help candidates learn the skills to build effective campaigns. The cooperatives will host two non-partisan cooperative Campaign Academies in Hickory and Greenville on Jan. 31 and Feb. 2, respectively. The seminars are open to all candidates and potential candidates.

The cooperatives recognize that quality campaigns help voters identify the best candidates for their communities.

"Candidates in the west and east may not want to come all the way to Raleigh for useful information on setting up their campaigns," said Jay Rouse, director of government affairs for the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. "These two seminars will provide political candidates with some great information at a reasonable price. Also, many first-time politicians do not know the time commitments they must make. Our seminars will give an idea of what to expect."

Campaign Academy Dates ($30)

January 31, 2006, 8:30 a.m
Hickory, N.C.
Holiday Inn Select
1385 Lenoir Rhyne Blvd. SE

February 2, 2006, 8:30 a.m.
Greenville, N.C.
Hilton Hotel
207 SW Greenville Blvd.

The cooperative Campaign Academy seminars will feature guest speakers who are experienced with both state and federal campaigns. Also, a representative from the State Board of Elections will talk about North Carolina campaign finance law. At the Cooperative Campaign Academy, attendees will learn about:

- Raising money for campaigns
- Researching the candidate's district
- North Carolina campaign finance laws
- Developing a campaign message and using the media
- Turning out votes

"All campaigns run on basically the same principles, but on different scales," Rouse said. "The instructors at our seminars have campaign experience, and they can help a candidate at any level. Cooperatives have helped hundreds of candidates across the country."

The non-partisan Campaign Academy is open to all candidates or anyone who is just thinking about running for office. To sign up, or to receive more information, please call Carolyn Childers with the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives at (919) 875-3107. Or by e-mail: carolyn.childers@ncemcs.com

Matt Vernon

At La Fiesta del Pueblo

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives sponsored La Fiesta del Pueblo, September 10–11 at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. La Fiesta is the largest Latin American Festival in the Carolinas and includes cultural and art exhibits; health, housing, safety, employment and technology fairs; non-profit outreach booths; and typical Latin American arts and crafts. It attracts more than 60,000 Hispanics from across the state. During the two-day event, Touchstone Energy cooperatives distributed more than 1,000 brochures with information on how to be prepared for a hurricane and general electric safety, offered in both English and Spanish.

Energy Efficiency in the Energy Policy Act of 2005

The federal energy legislation enacted this summer contains several provisions encouraging the efficient use of energy. Below is a sampling. Most provisions become effective in early December. Regulations spelling out specifics in the law are currently being written.

In Your Home

- Consumers can receive a credit of up to 30 percent of the cost—up to $2,000—for installing solar-powered hot-water systems used exclusively for purposes other than heating swimming pools and hot tubs.
- Consumers can receive tax credits up to $500 to upgrade thermostats, to caulk leaks, or to stop energy waste.
- Consumers can receive up to $200 credit for installation of new exterior windows; a $300 credit for purchases of a highly efficient central

Co-ops helping co-ops recover from the storms

As Carolina Country went to press in early October, members of North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives kept their fingers crossed that hurricane season would come to a close at the end of November with no further storm damage.

Prior to that, however, cooperatives across the state had been busy protecting their systems and restoring power to other systems affected by the summer's storms.

Cedar Island Causeway

The Cedar Island causeway in east Carteret County after Hurricane Ophelia.

Lisa Taylor-Galizia

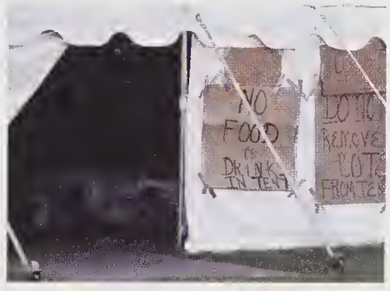
North Carolina coastal communities, from Brunswick County to the Outer Banks, were touched by Hurricane Ophelia's slow, wet, windy northward crawl in mid-September. While never making a classic landfall on the coast, the Category 1 hurricane's rain and wind caused damage and power outages Sept. 13–16.

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives began reporting outages on Sept. 14, with the bulk of the outages that day in Brunswick EMC and Jones-Onslow EMC service areas. Total outages reached close to 70,000 as Ophelia moved north, affecting other co-ops that serve coastal communities, including Four County EMC, Carteret-Craven Electric, Tideland EMC, Cape Hatteras Electric and Harkers Island Electric. Line crews from other co-ops in the state came to assist in power restoration. By the morning of Sept. 16, nearly all of the cooperative outages had been restored, with the remaining outages in heavily flooded areas.

North Carolina's cooperatives then sent line crews to Louisiana the week of Sept. 26 to assist with power outages caused by Hurricane Rita. A Category 3 hurricane when it reached landfall, Rita slammed the Louisiana-Texas border the morning of Sept. 24 with winds reaching 120 mph. More than 100 line technicians from eight North Carolina systems went to assist two Louisiana electric cooperatives: Beauregard Electric Cooperative (DeRidder, La.) and Washington St. Tammany Electric Cooperative (Franklinton, La).

In August and early September, more than 375 line technicians from 21 North Carolina co-op systems assisted with power restoration efforts after Hurricane Katrina destroyed several Mississippi electric cooperatives. And prior to that, 185 line technicians went to Alabama in July to help after Hurricane Dennis. As of early October, Mississippi reported that approximately 75 of its co-op employees remained homeless, and another 40 looked at homes that were total losses. Others suffered the loss of personal vehicles. North Carolina cooperatives had organized a relief fund for co-op employees.

The deployment of help is part of a mutual aid agreement shared between the nation's nearly 1,000 electric cooperatives to help one another in times of emergency, such as natural disasters.



Bobby Love

Lisa Taylor-Galizia

Sleeping Quarters

Here is where North Carolina and other crews slept while helping Coast EPA restore power in Mississippi.

Waste Oil Truck

Carteret-Craven Electric crews got creative when labeling the gasoline tanks they hauled to help Mississippi co-ops.

air conditioner, heat pump or water heater; and a $150 credit for installation of a highly efficient furnace or boiler.

- Contractors who build energy-efficient homes and manufacturers who make energy-efficient appliances are eligible for credits.
- In 2007, the start of daylight-saving time moves from the first Sunday in April to the second Sunday in March, and is extended by one week to the first Sunday in November.

For Your Vehicle

- In 2006, purchasers of hybrid-cars or "lean-burn" technology vehicles will be eligible for tax credits from $1,700–$3,400.
- Vehicles powered by fuel cells are eligible for a range of credits.
- Taxpayers can claim a 30 percent credit for the cost of installing clean-fuel vehicle refueling property to be used in a trade or business of the taxpayer or installed at the principal residence of the taxpayer. Clean fuels include any fuel at least 85 percent of the volume of which consists of ethanol, natural gas, compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, and hydrogen and any mixture of diesel fuel and biodiesel containing at least 20 percent biodiesel.
- The requirement for refiners to use 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol annually by 2012, will double current production.

George Stuteville, senior writer for Electric Co-op Today, a weekly trade newspaper.

Homeowner Loans

SCORE BIG SAVINGS ON YOUR MONTHLY PAYMENT

1ST MORTGAGES (Fixed Rates)

Amount	30 yr *5.5%	15 yr *5.125%
$75,000	$425.84	$597.99
$125,000	$709.74	$1004.85
$200,000	$1,135.58	$1,594.64

Refinance Now
Rates Are Low
Don't Miss Out

- Lower your monthly payment
- Bill consolidation
- Fast/local closings
- Cash Out for any reason
- Interest Only Loans

Servicing North Carolina's Mortgage Needs Since 1991

FEDERATED MORTGAGE, INC.
(800) 466-1635

* Restrictions Apply
* Rates subject to change and qualification
* 30 year APR 5.7%
* 15 year APR 5.37%
* Credit and collateral subject to qualification

Apply by phone or online
www.fedmort.com
Multi-State Mortgage Licensee

CALL NOW

BIOSECURITY FOR THE BIRDS

Smart Owners Have Healthy Birds

For a free pamphlet on preventing poultry and bird diseases e-mail birdbiosecurity@aphis.usda.gov

PROTECT YOUR BIRDS
Take a few simple steps: Disinfect shoes, clothes, and equipment. Wash your hands carefully. Keep other birds and people away from your birds.

LOOK FOR SIGNS OF ILLNESS
Watch for signs of disease or unexpected deaths among your birds.

REPORT SICK BIRDS
Call your local cooperative extension office, veterinarian, State Veterinarian or USDA Veterinary Services toll free at 1–866–536–7593.

USDA is working to keep **exotic Newcastle disease (END) & "bird flu" (avian influenza – AI)** out of the country. They are contagious viral diseases that can infect many types of birds.

Find out more:
www.aphis.usda.gov/vs

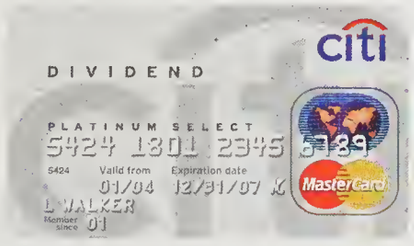
USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Before you run to apply, please remember to put down your scissors.

0% APR on balance transfers until 12/1/06.* Extend it to 3/1/07 simply by making $100 in purchases within 3 months of becoming a Citi® cardmember.** No balance transfer fee with this offer.

FULL 5% CASH BACK at supermarkets, drugstores and gas stations***

FULL 1% CASH BACK on other purchases and cash advances taken at the standard cash advance rate***



The Citi® Dividend Platinum Select® Card.

- Earn a full 5% cash back on purchases at supermarkets, drugstores and gas stations*** — a full 1% cash back on other purchases***
- Earn unlimited cash back by shopping at hundreds of top merchants within the Citi® Dividend Merchant Network***
- No annual fee
- Earn $5 cash back on balance transfer transactions of $1,500 or more

90-DAY TRIAL Try the Citi Dividend Card for 90 days. If you are not satisfied with how your cash back is adding up, you can redeem the cash you've earned.

citi®

Visit www.apply.citicards.com (Offer Code: F3M4)
or call 1-800-913-1034 by 1/15/06 to apply.

*After the promotional period, your standard APR for purchases will be applied to all remaining balance transfer amounts. (As of August 1, 2005, the standard variable APR for purchases: 12.74%; the standard variable APR for cash advances: 21.24%.) However, if you default under any Card Agreement that you have with us, we may automatically increase the rate on all balances (including any promotional balances) to a variable default rate of 30.24%. We may also increase the promotional rate if you fail to make payments to another creditor when due. The minimum finance charge is $0.50. Foreign purchase transaction fee is 3.0% of purchase amount after its conversion into U.S. dollars. The transaction fee for cash advances is 3.0% of the amount of each cash advance, $5 minimum. The transaction fee for balance transfers is 3.0% of the amount of each balance transfer, $5 minimum, $75 maximum. However, we will waive the balance transfer transaction fees on balances you transfer in response to this offer.

**First balance transfer and $100 in purchases must post to your account and not be returned within 3 months of becoming a cardmember to receive this rate until March 1, 2007, otherwise rate lasts only until December 1, 2006. Balance transfers, cash advance fees and finance charges do not qualify as purchases under this offer. New cardmembers only. Subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions apply.

***You may accumulate a maximum of $300 in Dividend Dollars in a calendar year, payable in checks of $50 or more only upon your request. However, this offer allows you to contact us within the first 90 days of cardmembership to request any cash back amount you may have earned during your trial period. Dividend Dollars earned through the Citi® Dividend Merchant Network do not count toward the calendar year maximum of $300 in Dividend Dollars. You will be given further information when you call to apply.

© 2005 Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. Citi, Citibank, Platinum Select and Citi and Arc Design are registered service marks of Citigroup Inc.

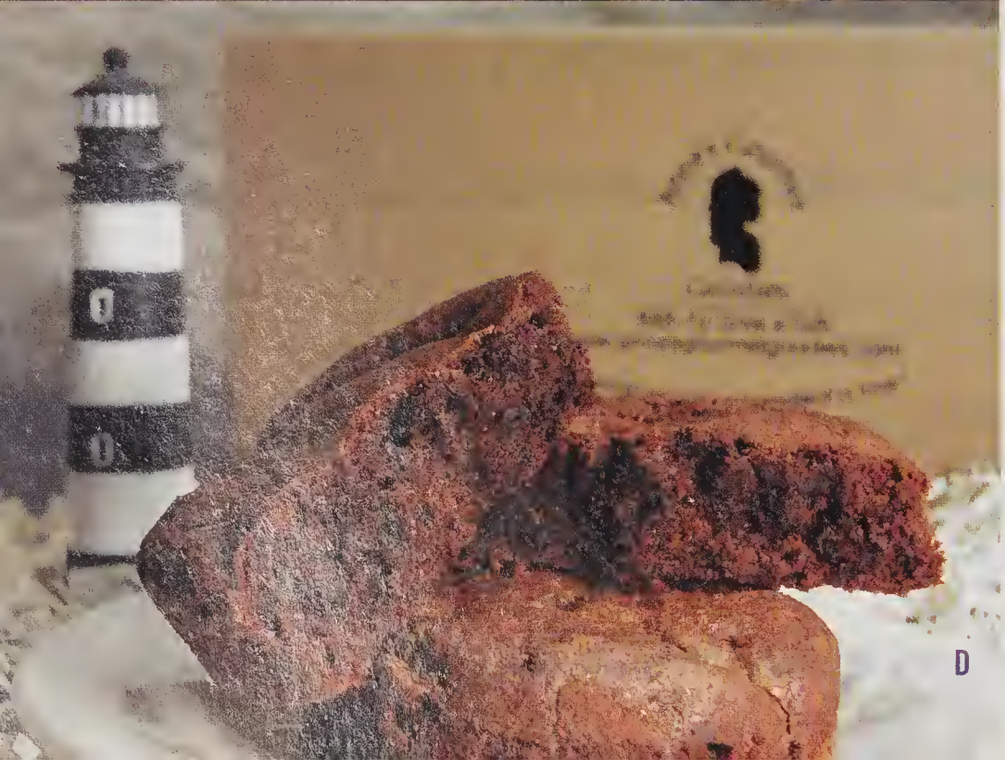
MasterCard® is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated.

O-DVZN5-OE1-B25

A

B

C



D

Carolina Country Store

Holiday Gift Guide

A. **"Home Sweet Home"** Artist Pamela Renfroe brings this country scene, "Home Sweet Home," to life with subjects such as the REA lineman, a 1944 John Deere Tractor and a 1941 REA truck. Licensed by the John Deere Company, each print and giclée is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity. Unframed prints are $80; framed are $210. Unframed giclées on stretched canvas are $250; framed, $380.

Pamela Renfroe
P.O. Box 867
916 Holly Hills Road
Hartwell, GA 30643
(706) 376-5707
www.pamelarenfroe.com

B. **Gourmet Bread Puddin'** You can bake bread pudding with two flavored mixes, raisin and chocolate, from Mrs. C's Kitchen. Included is a recipe for a vanilla cream sauce to top the pudding. Each Phyll's Gourmet Bread Puddin Mix comes in a bag and weighs 16 ounces. The raisin mix sells for $6 and the chocolate mix for $6.50. Curtis Cummings and his wife, Phyllis, use a mix recipe passed down from her mother.

Mrs. C's Kitchen
411 Deck St.
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 756-9558

C. **Home-Cooked Virginia Peanuts** These are cooked and packed on the farm. Extra-large peanuts with extra-large down-home taste. Gourmet, salted, hot and spicy Cajun, and old-fashion redskins. This season's specials: Single-dipped chocolate-covered, extra-crunchy peanut brittle, and homemade sugar-coated peanuts. Packed in vacuum-sealed cans for freshness. Specialized assorted gift box or baskets available for individual and corporate gift-giving.

Taylor's Home-Cooked Peanuts, LLC
1104 Statesville Road
Como, NC 27818
(252) 398-9946
(252) 398-5720
www.taylorspeanuts.com

D. **Anna's Gourmet Goodies** Brownies, triple chocolate cheesecakes and cookies…Anna's emphasizes fresh, natural ingredients and elegant packaging. A box of chocolate-chip cookies baked from scratch is $16.95. A triple chocolate cheesecake costs $22.95. Wrapped and shipped in an insulated foam container, the cheesecake arrives cold the next day. It serves six to seven people. Corporate gifts include personalized cards and company logos imprinted on the tins.

Anna's Gourmet Goodies
14460 New Falls of the Neuse Road
Box 149-105
Raleigh, NC 27614
(888) 864-4832
www.annasgourmetgoodies.com

E. **Dempsey Essick's 2006 Art Calendar** A full-color, rustic North Carolina art image by Davidson County artist Dempsey Essick is highlighted each month in a free-standing CD-style calendar for the desk, computer or bedside. Each calendar is $9.95 ($12.25 with shipping & handling). Carolina Country readers can buy two calendars and get one free if they mention this ad.

The Dempsey Essick Gallery
P.O. Box 1149
Welcome, NC 27374-1149
(336) 731-3499
wetpaint@dempseyessick.com
www.dempseyessick.com

E

F. **Aunt Ruby's Peanuts** Aunt Ruby's Peanuts from Enfield, North Carolina, makes very popular gifts any time of the year! We offer them raw, roasted in the shell, country-style, red-skin style, honey roasted, and chocolate-covered in individual cans in several sizes or in a variety of gift packs. This year we are introducing the popular cashews and have combined them in new gift packs.

A&B Milling Company
P.O. Box 278
Enfield, NC 27823
(800) 843-0105
www.auntrubyspeanuts.com

F

G. **So Southern Gift Baskets** These baskets are a Southern celebration—just add the porch. A peach basket is filled with fun and fixin's from the South—food, bluegrass, clogging and recipes. It's so-Southern culture delivered. The basket shown is the "Wilkes Supper," a meal for four plus music, recipes and lore.

Donna Alexander
150 Strupe Rd.
Lewisville, NC 27023
(336) 946-2177
www.sosouthern.com

G

H. **Cookies by Design** Cookies By Design, with stores in Asheville, Morrisville (near Raleigh) and Charlotte, offers hand-decorated bouquets delivered to your door. Here are more than 300 individual cookie designs that work as gifts, including themes for school and teachers, cookies shaped like dollar signs, travel, sports and celebratory occasions. Cookies look like the comic strip character Garfield, along with Disney characters Pooh and Mickey Mouse. Costs vary by stores and options. Seven-cookie bouquet pricing starts at $42.

Cookies by Design, Inc.
1865 Summit Ave. #605
Plano, TX 75074
(888) 882-6654
www.cookiesbydesign.com

H

I. **Pet fashions and accessories** Classy Sassy Paws in High Point caters to pampered pets by selling creative clothing and accessories ranging from classy to sassy. Merchandise sold includes sweaters, tutus, collars, beds and jewelry. Classy Sassy Paws also puts on a Fifi & Fido Fashion Show using homeless dogs from local rescue groups. Pricing depends on sizes, but ranges from $10 for a collar to $75 for a bed.

Classy Sassy Paws
129 Asbill Avenue
High Point, NC 27265
(336) 883-9356
www.classysassypaws.com.

I

J

K

L

J. **"North Carolina Art Pottery"** This identification and market value guide, which emphasizes pieces from 1900–1960, covers the transition from utilitarian art pottery, Catawba Valley pottery, and potters such as the Coles, Cravens, Jugtown, and M.L. Owen. Author A. Everette James (with Rodney Leftwich) also explains condition, signs, stamps, shapes and symbols and their effect on value, and discusses the challenge of collecting rare and unusual pieces. "North Carolina Art Pottery 1900–1960" is hardcover and costs $24.95. 304 pages, more than 900 full-color photographs.

Schroeder Publishing
58-1 Kentucky Dam Road
Paducah, KY 42003
(800) 626-5420
www.collectorbooks.com

K. **Timberlake cookbook** North Carolina artist Bob Timberlake says he "can't cook a lick," but he loves to eat, married a talented cook and has friends who whip up tasty dishes. "Bob Timberlake's Recipes from Home" collects recipes from family, hunting companions, caterers and restaurants. Each chapter is preceded with a quotation, color prints and photographs. Recipes include Bacon-Wrapped Goose, Bushhog Slaw, Baked Tomatoes with Fresh Corn Pudding, and Marinated Fried Wild Turkey Strips. Hardcover, 180 pages, $24.95.

Bob Timberlake, Inc.
1660 East Center St. Extension
Lexington, NC 27292
(800) 550-6694
www.bobtimberlake.com

L. **Books About Life's Simple Pleasures** There's regional nostalgia in the entertaining books by noted writer and speaker AlexSandra Lett. Add 7% sales tax, $3 postage for first book, $1 for each additional. Free brochure.

"Timeless Recipes and Remedies: Country Cooking, Customs, and Cures" in hardcover, 200 pages, $17.

"A Timeless Place: Lett's Set a Spell at the Country Store" in hardcover, 175 pages, $20.

"Timeless Moons: Seasons of the Fields and Matters of the Heart" in hardcover, 175 pages, $20.

Southern Books & Talks
1996 Buckhorn Road
Sanford, NC 27330-0727
(919) 258-9299
LettsSetaSpell@aol.com
www.atimelessplace.com

M. **"Carolina Country Reflections"** This limited-edition book offers nearly 200 photographs by Carolina Country magazine readers depicting life in rural North Carolina before 1970, including scenes and stories of families, farms, fun times and everyday life. Hardcover, 160 pages. The price of $46 includes shipping and handling (if ordered before Jan. 1, 2006). Order by mail or online.

Carolina Country
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611
www.CarolinaCountry.com

M

N

O

P

Q

N. **NC Weather and Climate** From ice storms to hurricanes, North Carolina's weather is among the world's most exciting. In this book, the director of North Carolina's Climate Program tells us why. With dozens of photographs and maps, Peter Robinson explains our weather in language anyone can understand. For planting, traveling, or just trying to understand the forecast, this guide will be a gift opened all year long. It's 256 pages, available in hardcover for $39.95, softcover for $24.95, in bookstores or from the publisher.

University of
North Carolina Press
Chapel Hill
(800) 848-6224
www.uncpress.unc.edu

O. **History, Genealogy, Legends, Research** From the Wright Brothers to furniture makers, from the Civil War to highway historical markers, books about North Carolina history and genealogy make perfect gifts. The Publications Section has high research and editorial standards for the books, articles, maps and other materials that it publishes. More than 160 titles, many now on sale at discounts of 50% or more. Free catalogs available.

Historical Publications Section
N.C. Office of Archives & History
4622 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4622
(919) 733-7442
www.ncpublications.com
http://store.yahoo.com/nc-historical-publications

P. **Classical and Jazz CDs** Several CDs by Charlotte musician Claire Ritter present new arrangements. Her latest CD, "Greener Than Blue," offers guest musicians Stan Strickland on soprano sax, bass clarinet and voice; Todd Low on viola; and Bob Weiner on percussion and drums. Her CD "Castles in the Air" showcases Ritter's weaving of jazz, classical and faux-samba rhythmic styles. A companion CD, "River of Joy," features piano interpretations. They cost $13 each.

Zoning Recordings
Studio 426
310 Arlington Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 372-5008
www.claireritter.com

Q. **"Sandburg Out Loud"** North Carolina musician David Holt plays banjo, guitars, harmonicas and homemade wooden spoons on this CD selection of the late Carl Sandburg's work. Music titles include the "Chicken Reel" and "Railroad Bill." Poems include "Little Girl, Be Careful What You Say" and "The Junk Man." Story titles include "How Henry Hagglyhoagly Played the Guitar with His Mittens On." Playing time is 65 minutes. CD is $16.95. There's also an audiotape version for $12.

August House Publishers, Inc
P.O. Box 3223
Little Rock, AR 72203-3223
(800) 284-8784
www.augusthouse.com

Mark Hewitt, Cereal Bowl (detail), 2001, salt-glazed stoneware, 2½ x 7¼ in., Collection of the artist. Hewitt has studied Asian influences on early American pottery. "I'm just 'connecting the pots,'" he says.

NORTH CAROLINA'S pottery tradition

By Michelle Eggleston

The North Carolina pottery tradition goes back more than two centuries and has become known worldwide. The first potter known to have settled here was a German who arrived in Rowan County in 1755. Moravian potters followed and worked in the Winston-Salem area. Potters concentrated themselves in the relatively isolated Piedmont region of the state rather than the more heavily settled coast, because the coastal area clay was mixed with sand and organic matter not suitable for mass-production pottery. Also, coastal communities could acquire urban utensils more easily from Europe or New England. Inland, there was more need for pottery and less competition.

From the Revolutionary War period to about 1820, the most common form of pottery made here was simple earthenware (or redware) made from surface clay. Few pieces of redware from this period survive today because the material was fragile and lasted only a few years. Peter Craven, who figured in the Chatham and Orange county-area Regulators Movement against colonial rule in the 1760s, is believed to be the first of the Craven family in these parts who turned out pots that today are prized among collectors.

By the late 1700s, North Carolina potters began using some of the large clay deposits suitable for a sturdier stoneware. They applied what's known as a salt glaze adapted from glazes developed in Europe and New England. The resulting pottery was more durable than redware, easier to keep clean and healthier to use. They made crocks, jugs, cups, bowls, pitchers and other utilitarian pieces. But besides their focus on utility, many of these potters clearly enjoyed the decorative and ornamental possibilities afforded by creatively combining the elements of earth, water, wind and fire.

During the Civil War there was a demand for large, durable containers to store foods that could be salted or pickled and sent to the troops. At the end of the war the potter's market shrank back to its immediate community. In the later 1800s, factory glassware and tins became increasingly more affordable, lighter and some thought more sanitary than pottery. By the late 1800s, most potters had resumed farming to supplement their pottery business. The whiskey jug market kept some pretty busy through the turn of the century, but when Prohibition was adopted in 1918 the jug market also began to wither.

By 1920, some potters began to shift from making utilitarian wares to "artware" objects like vases, ornamental pots, centerpieces, tableware, decorative objects, novelties and cemetery markers. These pieces could be sold in gift shops, garden shops or roadside shops to tourists, collectors and wholesalers. In the late 1920s and 1930s there was a major shift to new forms and techniques. Potters experimented with glazes and new colors. Technological advances helped speed up production and guarantee uniform quality. New kiln designs improved their efficiency and capacity. By the 1950s, the electric turning wheel further transformed the craft.

Both the traditions of the past and the experimental, artistic styles of pottery coexist in today's North Carolina pottery culture, and it continues to thrive. As it happens, many of today's potteries are located in areas served by Touchstone Energy cooperatives. Rural Randolph and Moore counties (Randolph Electric), and especially the Seagrove and Westmoore communities, grew some of North Carolina's most famous potteries. Jugtown Pottery and Owens family potteries of this region earned early recognition in the 1940s and 1950s, and today nearly 100 studios and shops are located here. Potters also have revived the traditions in the Catawba Valley (Rutherford Electric), Alamance County and Chatham County (Central Electric). The work of contemporary potters clearly shows influence of those who came before. The North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove is a central source of information and display. The annual Seagrove Pottery Festival takes place the weekend before Thanksgiving.

A MAJOR EXHIBITION AT THE

North Carolina Museum of Art

"The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery," a landmark exhibition highlighting the state's most distinguished traditional potters, opens at the North Carolina Museum of Art on Oct. 30 and will run through March 19, 2006.

"The Potter's Eye" features the work of six living North Carolina potters in addition to masterpieces from the 19th century, highlighting contemporary work and demonstrating historic and aesthetic linkages with early work from Europe, Asia and America.

Co-curated by potters Mark Hewitt and Nancy Sweezy and museum staff member George Holt, "The Potter's Eye" considers important connections between old and new pots and the artistic importance of the North Carolina pottery tradition.

The North Carolina folk pottery tradition has roots back to the mid-18th century. The vibrant tradition grew up in the central part of the state, where folk potters still use local clays, as well as ash, salt and alkaline glazes, and wood-fired kilns.

Examples of 19th-century works by master potters are included in "The Potter's Eye." The exhibition features pots by Daniel Seagle, David Hartzog, Solomon Loy, Timothy Boggs, Nicholas and Himer Fox, members of the Webster and Craven families, and many others.

As utilitarian objects now also admired for their aesthetic qualities, these early pots show close attention to form as well as function. They are strong and sturdy yet naturally elegant. Some possess gracefully formed handles and others show deftly incised lines. These works are both restrained in their earth-toned color palettes and dynamic in their pooled glazes and superficial cracks (the result of coarse clay and extreme firings).

Nineteenth-century pottery from North Carolina merits comparison with earlier pots found in England, Germany, New England, South Carolina, China, Korea and Japan. The exhibition includes pertinent examples from each of these regions to demonstrate the connections and variations among traditions.

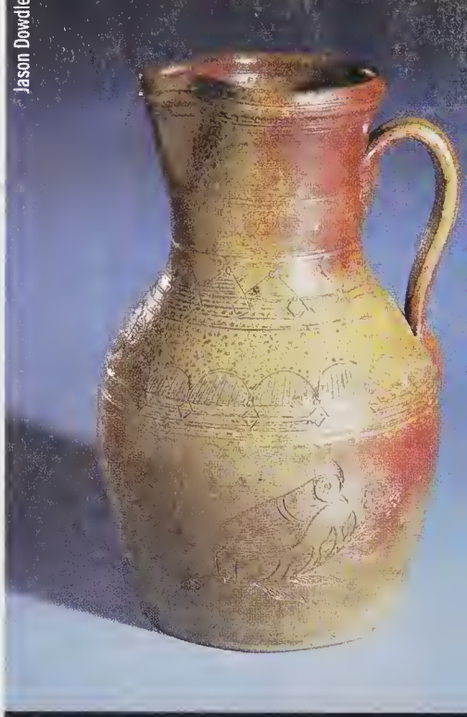
Contemporary Potters

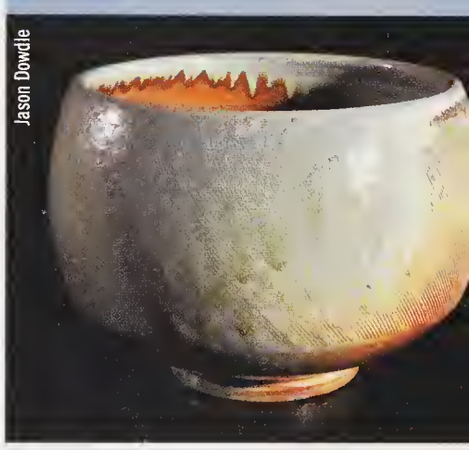
Using 19th-century work as a point of departure, "The Potter's Eye" traces the North Carolina tradition to the present day and presents 21st-century potters whose pots reveal 19th-century stylistic influence.

Works by contemporary potters Ben Owen III, Pam Owens, Vernon Owens and David Stuempfle—all members of North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives—as well as Kim Ellington of the Catawba Valley and Mark Hewitt of Chatham County, demonstrate the persistence of tradition and the longevity of the forms, techniques and materials that were used in the 19th century. Subtle tweaks to tradition, however, distinguish the work of these potters as distinctively modern.

Like their 19th-century predecessors, the 21st-century pots vary in shape, color and size. Still, each pot is proportioned perfectly, one part blending with the next, creating an organic but unified composition. Simple yet dignified, the pots approach sculpture in their well-executed forms. While the forms of the pots are reminiscent of earlier traditions, their surface attributes are thoroughly modern in expression and execution.

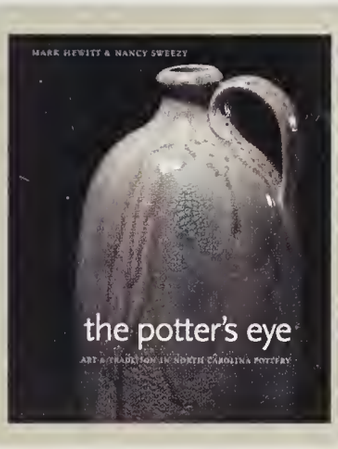
This exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts Folk and Traditional Arts Program. Admission is $5 for individuals and $3 for seniors, students and groups of 10 or more. For additional information visit www.ncartmuseum.org or call (919) 839-6262.





Chester Webster, Pitcher, 1879, salt-glazed stoneware, 13 x 7 in. Old Salem Inc., Collection of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts. Webster made this when he was 81.

Ben Owen III, Shouldered Bowl, 2003, wood-fired stoneware, 7 x 10 in., Collection of the artist. Owen learned from his grandfather in Seagrove and still works there. "We only have so many pots we can make with our hands in our lifetime so our goal is to make the best we can as carefully as we can."



The Book

The University of North Carolina Press has published a book and catalog, "The Potter's Eye," that accompanies the exhibition. Mark Hewitt and Nancy Sweezy, both working potters in North Carolina, compiled the book. Hewitt's section looks at the seeds of North Carolina pottery tradition in early Asian and European pottery and shows their growth into the North Carolina work of the 19th century. Sweezy presents profiles of six contemporary North Carolina potters who are featured in the exhibition.

The book is 296 pages with 235 color illustrations and costs $39.95 in hardcover. For more information, visit the museum or contact University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. http://uncpress.unc.edu

It's the thought that counts

The dumbest gift you ever received

The squirrel pelt

It wasn't "It's the thought that counts." It was more like, "What were you thinking?" The dumbest gift I ever received was from a college boyfriend (as in old enough to know better). I was expecting a romantic gift of perfume or flowers. What I got was a squirrel skin that he skinned himself from a squirrel he found "sleeping" in the road. It was wrapped in a shoebox just for me. He showed me how with a rubber band it could easily be made into a squirrel suit for a small stuffed animal. I don't know what I did to inspire such a creepy gift. "Handmade from the heart" does not apply to road kill.

Wendy Growcock | Monroe, Union Power Cooperative

A can of Slim Fast

I pride myself on being a practical person. I love to receive gifts that are funny and make me laugh, or that are practical that I can use. One Christmas morning our family eagerly gathered around the Christmas tree. The atmosphere was one of joy and gleeful shrieks as each ripped the pretty colored paper from the nicely covered boxes.

My daughter got her Barbie Dream House. My son got his electric-powered four-wheeler. My husband got the stereo he wanted. And I got a can of powdered Slim Fast.

A can of powdered Slim Fast. That's right. It wasn't from Santa either, it was from my husband!

"What is this?" I asked my husband.

"Well, you said you wanted to lose weight," was his simple reply.

And so ends the story. That was the dumbest gift I ever got and needless to say, that is one of the many reasons why he's not my husband anymore.

Angie Womack | Sanford, Central EMC

It's a surprise, honey

My new husband was working the second shift (4 p.m. to 12 a.m.) at GE one night when he called long distance to tell me that he had bought a gift for me. Boy, was I excited! It had been several months since my birthday and no other holidays had come around, so I couldn't imagine just what the occasion was. I begged and begged and begged him to tell me what he had, to no avail!

"You can just get it when you wake up in the morning," he said, nonchalantly. Normally I wouldn't even know when he got in. But that particular night I cooked tomorrow's dinner, washed two loads of clothes and folded his uniforms for the week. I was a superwoman that night waiting for his arrival. Finally, I heard the truck door shut. My heart started racing when I heard him dragging something up on the back deck. The back door opened, and there it was: an ironing board!

Sheral Johnson | Supply, Brunswick EMC

GO ONLINE
www.carolinacountry.com

Thanks to everyone who sent in stories. You can see more on our Web site . Next month we'll publish your stories about memorable holiday mishaps (deadline was Oct. 15). See more themes and rules for our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series on page 20.

Roller-skate shoes

My grandmother, as nice of a woman as she is, is not the greatest gift giver in the world. She only looks for one thing when she shops—a bargain. According to her, anything on sale makes for a great gift. She once bought a fake Tommy Hilfiger shirt for me on her yearly trip to Mexico. It was great aside from the fact that one sleeve was nearly six inches shorter than the other. But that's okay. She saved some money, and it's the thought that counts.

One of the most ridiculous gifts she has ever given me was for Christmas several years ago. This was when "roller-skate shoes" were the big thing. So naturally I wanted a pair like everyone else, but I probably should've thought it through when I asked my Mimi for them.

We began to open the presents Christmas Day, and I just couldn't wait! I tore the wrapping off, and there they were—almost. There were roller-skate shoes in the box and, in her defense, I probably should've been more specific. Inside, there was a pair of white and pink, size 11 shoes. Maybe I'm being picky, but who could expect an 8-year-old boy to like, let alone fit into, a pair of shoes like that?

"Now I know they're a little big," she said, obviously missing the color issue at hand. "But look, here is a pair of thick socks I got you so they'll fit better. You should've seen how much they were marked down!"

Of course they were marked down! Look at them! But that's okay. It's the thought that counts, right?

Daniel Grassel | Matthews, Butler High School

"Pregnant shoes"

Around Christmas time in 1975 I was pregnant with our second child. We didn't have much money, and there was this store going out of business called Grant's. Everything was 75 percent off. There wasn't a lot of stuff left to buy, but my husband went there for my Christmas present. I told him I needed a pair of shoes size 8 and a robe for when I went to have the baby. He went shopping, and they even wrapped the gifts for him.

Christmas Eve I opened my presents. The robe was fine, but the shoes were awful! Some young sales girl had sold him a pair of men's sandals size 11. He said they were "pregnant shoes," especially for expecting mothers.

I couldn't believe my eyes. They were way too big and weighed a ton! I couldn't even pick up my feet in them much less walk. I laughed, and I cried. Needless to say, that was the last time my husband went shopping for me. We've been married 34 years. Now he just gives me the money. Today it still gives us a laugh.

Mary C. Watkins | Aurora, Tideland EMC

The nutcracker

I was 15 years old, and my aunt asked what I would like for Christmas. I loved the "Nutcracker" ballet, and I told her that I would love a nutcracker. Christmas Eve, the family is gathered and opening gifts. I open the one from my aunt and uncle. It was a brand new, shiny metal nutcracker with picks! She couldn't figure why a 15-year-old would want a nutcracker. Fortunately, my mom got me the real deal—a nice, red, wooden nutcracker soldier.

Niki Tucker | Peachland, Pee Dee EMC

Bill Elliot

On my first Valentine's Day as a married woman, I had been waiting patiently all day for my gift, hoping for flowers, a card or something special. By the evening, I had given up hope of getting anything and I was very upset. We had to go to the corner store for something, and I was giving him the silent treatment.

"What's wrong with you?" he asked.

"Nothing," I said, because he should've known.

"Oh, I know. You're mad because I didn't get you anything," he said.

So we stopped at the store, and he goes inside. A few minutes later he comes back out and hands me a rolled-up piece of paper. "What's this?" I ask as I unroll it.

"It's your Valentine's Day gift," he says, smiling.

And it's a poster of Bill Elliot.

"Uh, how much was this?" I ask, already knowing the answer.

"Oh, it was free," he says. "They gave it to me."

Lisa Griffin | Morganton, Rutherford EMC

The sandalwood elephant

A co-worker, originally from China, brought me a wedding gift several weeks before the 1978 date. Inside the box was a carved elephant of sandalwood. I was enchanted by this exotic gift.

Months later, a fellow employee and I (we had both married around the same time) were comparing newlywed notes. He asked what I had received from "Nancy," our mutual co-worker. When I described the gift he grinned and said, "I got the other two." Apparently it was a set of three elephants that linked together. Mine was the larger "leader."

We both had a good laugh at our frugal friend. And then we laughed even more when he offered to give me the rest of the set (which I declined).

Patricia M. Poland | Monroe, Union Power Cooperative

From the strange aunt

On the first Christmas my husband and I spent together, we were visiting his grandmother for Christmas dinner, and I was eagerly awaiting the arrival of his strange aunt who I had heard so much about. Upon meeting this kind lady, I was surprised everyone had said such harsh things about her. She seemed very nice to me. She had even gotten me a gift. How thoughtful of her to make me feel like part of the family.

After dinner, everyone returned to the sitting room to open gifts. Imagine the looks on everyone's faces as we realized she had gotten us all fly swatters.

Becky Rogers | Wallace, Four County EMC

Flowers and nuts

I was a bookkeeper at Reynolds Mill, our family's business, near Robbins. We dealt with the farmers who were wonderful people. These farmers brought their grain and corn to the mill to have it ground into flour and meal. Sometimes the wives would ride with their husbands to the mill. It was always a delight to see them.

There was a small lady I especially enjoyed. She always wore a pretty straw hat. One day she came in the office with a pretty bunch of flowers she had cut from her yard. The stems were in a wet, white cloth. She had a brown bag in the other hand. She told me, "When I got in the pickup, my husband asked me, 'What are you going to do with the flowers?' I told him I was taking them to Geneva. His answer was, 'I did not know she was dead. When did she die?' I told him, she is not dead. I am giving her flowers while she is living." Now what was in the brown bag? She had been to the woods and picked up a bag of hickory nuts for me. She said, "I hope you like them."

I have received some nice gifts wrapped in pretty paper with big shiny bows, but nothing has touched me like that handful of flowers and the brown bag with the hickory nuts. It surely was the thought that counted.

Geneva Reynolds Auman | Seagrove, Randolph EMC

The white elephant

Once upon a time, I was a teenager way back in Depression days. At Christmas the teacher decided that we draw names. That way everybody would get a present. Don't remember whose name I got, but I'll never forget who got mine and what he gave me. This is hilarious. It was an ashtray with a white elephant on one side. Now when you don't smoke and you hadn't even gone out behind the buildings to try smoking, it surely gets the title of the dumbest gift I ever received. At first it hurt my feelings, but it soon turned into a laughing matter. After many years I put it in the Salvation Army stuff.

Hazel B. Kimrey | Denton, EnergyUnited

For ages 18 and under

On August 15, 2005, for my 18th birthday, my mama's best friend decided that since I was now 18 and just graduating high school, that I should be able to handle a puzzle.

Unlike normal puzzles consisting of 500 to 1,000 pieces my puzzle contains two big pieces. Not only that, but after giving me the gift she informed me that the answer key was included in case I needed any help. I think I'll be able to handle it on my own.

Jamye Lyn Russ | Elizabethtown, Four County EMC

Still grateful after all these years

Could it be the set of four beige linen napkins that my wife's best friend gave us for Christmas one year? We are a family of five.

Or the time my brother gave me underwear for Christmas? They were in his size, and he weighed 100 pounds more than I did.

Maybe it was the wedding gift my mother gave us almost 30 years ago: the ornate, multicolored, paisley-patterned bottom sheet for our bed with matching pillow cases but no top sheet. We still have them and have moved them to 10 homes in four states. What will ever match them?

How about the time our sister-in-law gave us three towels and three washcloths for a gift? None of the six were the same color or pattern. What was she thinking?

But, then, it would be hard to top the bottle of after-shave lotion I got for a gift some time back. I've worn a full beard for years and years. Oh, I know...

Paul Kaminer | Red Springs, Lumbee River EMC

Send us your best Earn $50

Here are the themes in our **"Nothing Could Be Finer"** series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you $50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

January 2006
How I Improved My Health
One thing you did that made you a lot healthier.
Deadline: Nov. 15

February 2006 We Made History
Who in your family made a mark in North Carolina history? Send a photo, if you have one.
Deadline: Dec. 15

March 2006 Why I'm a Gardener
The real reason you tend a garden.
Deadline: Jan. 15

April 2006 A Perfect Site for a Picnic
Send us your pictures and stories about the best picnic place in North Carolina.
Deadline: Feb. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay $50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616
   Or by e-mail: finer@carolinacountry.com
   Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

Medicare Part D:

So Many Options—So Little Time!

Sorting through Medicare Part D plans

By Ann Smith

Medicare's new prescription drug benefit—Part D—goes into effect Jan. 1, 2006.

Most likely, you have been receiving information from private health plans and insurance companies providing Part D plans in your area, as well as from your former employer(s) if they offer retiree benefits.

Open enrollment for Medicare Part D starts Nov. 15 and you need to make a decision soon in order to be covered on Jan. 1. But how do you sort through all the information?

Here are some tips for evaluating and comparing the plans:

Review the options.

- Do you have a choice of plans with the same provider?
- Can you easily change from one plan to another in the future?

Look at the formulary, which is the list of drugs covered by each plan.

- Are your medications covered?

Check the pharmacy network.

- Is your pharmacy included in the plan's network?
- Can you get your prescription filled when you are away from home?

Find out what costs you have to pay and when.

- Do you have deductibles or coverage gaps?
- How much is your coinsurance?
- Do you pay a coinsurance for catastrophic coverage?

Compare the premiums.

- Do you really save money if you choose the plan with the lower premium, once you pay for any drugs not covered on the formulary?
- Does the plan with the higher premium save you money by offering no deductibles or by spreading out your costs?

Calculate how much you currently pay for prescription drugs.

- If you have prescription drug coverage, contact the plan and ask for the total amount spent last year and/or this year on your prescription drugs.
- Make sure you ask for the total cost—the amount you paid plus the amount paid by your current plan for your prescriptions.

Ask about the plan's customer service.

- Is there a toll-free number?
- Is a live person available when you call?

Consider whether it's a plan you can trust.

- Are you familiar with this organization or insurer?
- Have you been covered in the past by this organization or insurer?

Whatever you decide, make sure you do it before it is too late.

Open enrollment ends May 15, 2006. If you are eligible for Medicare and do not enroll by this date—and you are not covered by another plan providing equivalent or better prescription drug coverage—you could face a penalty when you do enroll. Medicare requires that you pay a penalty of 1 percent of the national basic premium for each month you are eligible for Medicare and do not have prescription drug coverage.

For more information on Medicare Part D, please go to www.medicare.gov or call (800)-MEDICARE or (800)-633-4227.

Ann Smith writes about insurance and financial services topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Choose & Cut Christmas Tree Farms—A Directory

Ranking second nationally in Christmas tree production (after Oregon), North Carolina is home to more than 1,600 Christmas tree farms, many of them members of a Touchstone Energy cooperative. About a quarter of them invite you to visit, pick a tree, cut it and carry it home. Choosing and cutting their trees has become a holiday tradition for many families.

The N.C. Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services maintains a directory of "choose & cut" Christmas tree farms and has permitted Carolina Country to reprint it here, in alphabetical order by farm. For a free copy of the state version, contact the NCDA&CS Northeast Marketing Center at (252) 331-4773 or the Asheville Farmers Market at (828) 253-1691. The directory does not necessarily list all the "choose & cut" farms, and its information is only as valid as what the farms have furnished. For more information and driving directions, visit www.ncfarmfresh.com

A White Christmas
1097 Davenport Road
Newland, NC 28657
Avery County
(828) 765-8629

Ammons Brothers Nursery
2233 Wolf Mountain Road
Tuckasegee, NC 28783
Jackson County
(828) 293-5953
(828) 293-5398

B & D Christmas Tree Farm
1206 Elliott Farm Road
Fayetteville, NC 28311
Cumberland County
(910) 488-3003
(910) 482-4404

B & H Farms
7439 Dogwood Knob Road
Newland, NC 28657
Burke County
(828) 733-4654

Back Achers Christmas Tree Farm
4533 Inwood Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
Wake County
(919) 821-2071
www.back-achers.com

Beautancus Christmas Tree Farm
1569 Beautancus Road
Mt. Olive, NC 28365
Duplin County
(919) 778-7060

Bickerstaff Trees, Inc.
866 NC Hwy 18 South
Sparta, NC 28675
Alleghany County
(336) 372-8866
www.bickerstafftrees.com

Big Ridge Tree Farm
762 George Eggers Road
Banner Elk, NC 28604
Watauga County
(828) 963-5151
(828) 773-2857

Bill & Peggy Austin Choose And Cut
166 Russ Cornett Road
Boone, NC 28607
Watauga County
(828) 264-7296

Bill Mike's Choose & Cut
126 Taft Street
Eden, NC 27288
Rockingham County
(336) 623-1213

Boyce Farms
2813 Mount Vernon Road
Raleigh, NC 27613
Wake County
(919) 848-8264
BoyceFarms.com

Boyd Mountain Christmas Tree Farm
445 Boyd Farm Road
Waynesville, NC 28785
Haywood County
(828) 926-8888
(828) 506-3513
www.boydmountain.com

Brickyard Nursery
2592 Pisgah Church Road
Lenoir, NC 28645
Caldwell County
(828) 758-8940
(828) 499-6269

Brock's Tree Farm
8317 Lawdraker Road
Apex, NC 27539
Wake County
(919) 772-3273
www.anderware.com/bgbtrees

Brook Hollow Choose And Cut
351 Johnson Lane
Crossnore, NC 28616
Avery County
(828) 733-9161
www.tommytrees.com

Cartner Christmas Tree Farm
901 Balsam Drive, Mountain Glen, PO Box 74
Newland, NC 28657
Avery County
(828) 733-2391

Cedar Mountain Tree Farm
1350 Reasonover Road
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718
Transylvania County
(828) 884-5954
(808) 885-2286

Clawson's Trees
4944 Highway 194 North
Boone, NC 28607
Watauga County
(828) 264-3162

Colonial Acres Nursery
2601 Hannah Ford Road
Brevard, NC 28712
Transylvania County
(828) 884-4330

Corn Hill Christmas Trees
3514 Cannady Mill Road
Kittrell, NC 27544
Granville County
(919) 693-2813
(919) 395-2739

Cornett Deal Christmas Tree Farm
142 Tannenbaum Lane
Vilas, NC 28692
Watauga County
(828) 297-1136
www.songbirdcabin.com

Crazy Fox Tree Patch
135 Fox Trail
Sparta, NC 28675
Alleghany County
(336) 372-6719
(336) 372-2162

Cross Ridge Farm
959 Sherwood Road
Vilas, NC 28692
Watauga County
(828) 297-2255

Daniel Tree Farm
PO Box 1293
Coats, NC 27521
Harnett County
(910) 897-7520

Discount Tree Farm
2552 Hwy 221 South
Sparta, NC 28675
Alleghany County
(336) 372-8242
www.wardendiscounttrees.com

Doby Tree Farm
150 Doby Road
Cameron, NC 28326
Moore County
(910) 245-3265

D's Trees
PO Box 465
Cullowhee, NC 28723
Jackson County
(828) 293-3308

Elk River Evergreens
PO Box 117
Elk Park, NC 28622
Avery County
(828) 733-5607
(828) 733-9700

Evergreen Ridge
299 Tower Road
Newland, NC 28657
Avery County
(828) 733-9606
www.evergreenridgechristmastrees.com

Ewing's Fraser Fir Farm
172 Will Perry Road
Vilas, NC 28692
Watauga County
(828) 297-2856

Farley Nursery
PO Box 564
Brevard, NC 28712
Transylvania County
(828) 884-2365
(828) 883-9828

Franklin Tree Farms
PO Box 33
Linville Falls, NC 28647
Avery County
(828) 765-2518

Frosty's Choose & Cut
PO Box 1235
Jefferson, NC 28640
Ashe County
(336) 246-9888
(336) 246-8494

Garvey Tree Farm
442 Laurel Glenn Church Road
Sparta, NC 28675
Alleghany County
(336) 372-2870

Gentrees Farm
1 Hominy Creek Road
Chandler, NC 28715
Buncombe County
(828) 667-1271

Greenstate Landscaping/ Santa's Forest
2643 Carthage Road
Lumberton, NC 28360
Robeson County
(910) 739-0405

Griffin's Evergreens
250 Avent Ferry Road
Sanford, NC 27330
Lee County
(919) 258-3587

Hall Tree Farm
4665 Sartin Road
Burlington, NC 27217
Alamance County
(336) 421-0060

Harrell Hill Farms
467 Byrd Road
Bakersville, NC 28705
Mitchell County
(828) 688-9188
(828) 688-6312
www.harrellhillfarms.com

Helms Christmas Tree Farm
1151 John Beam Road
"Christmas Tree Lane"
Vale, NC 28168
Lincoln County
(704) 276-1835

Hensley's Nursery
416 Fir Road
Burnsville, NC 28714
Yancey County
(828) 682-3795
(828) 208-3795

High Hopes Farm
1135 Hadley Mill Road
Pittsboro, NC 27213
Chatham County
(919) 542-4803
(919) 542-4803

High Valley Trout And Tree Farm
615 Cathey's Creek Road
Brevard, NC 28712
Transylvania County
(828) 883-3951

Hope Hollow Farms
Weaverville, NC 28787
Buncombe County
(828) 645-4621

Horley Christmas Tree Farm
1098 NC 150 West
Summerfield, NC 27358
Guilford County
(336) 643-4007

Horney Hollow Fraser Fir
30 Horney Creek Road
Banner Elk, NC 28604
Avery County
(828) 898-4496

J & D Tree Farms
576 Bryan Hollow Road
Boone, NC 28607
Watauga County
(828) 262-1845
(828) 773-7925
www.jdtreefarm.com

J & J Tree Farm
28 Guffie Road
Franklin, NC 28734
Macon County
(828) 524-3464

Jerry Wilson Farms
10287 Hwy. 197 South
Burnsville, NC 28714
Yancey County
(828) 682-6842

Joe Edwards Christmas Tree Farm
2081 Pine Swamp Road
Sparta, NC 28675
Alleghany County
(336) 372-1711
(336) 945-2260

John Wagoner & Sons Christmas Trees
6749 Friedens Church Road
Gibsonville, NC 27249-9713
Guilford County
(336) 449-4557

Jones Christmas Tree Farm
2473 Hwy 113
Laurel Springs, NC 28644
Ashe County
(336) 359-8299
(336) 657-1720
www.joneschristmastreefarm.com

Jordan Lake Christmas Tree Farm
2170 Martha's Chapel Road
Apex, NC 27523
Chatham County
(919) 362-6300
www.jordanlakechristmas.com

Justice Christmas Tree Farm
1325 Gould Road
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Onslow County
(910) 346-6783
www.justicefarms.com

Kenansville Christmas Trees
488 NC 11 South
Magnolia, NC 28453
Duplin County
(910) 296-0829

Lee's Trees
965 Helen Blevins Road
West Jefferson, NC 28694
Ashe County
(336) 846-7936

Lil' Grandfather Choose And Cut
15371 NC Hwy 18 S
Laurel Springs, NC 28644
Alleghany County
(336) 372-9613
(336) 359-2537
www.lilgrand.com

Lyalls Nursery
238 Mt. Valley Drive
West Jefferson, NC 28694
Ashe County
(336) 246-7516

Lyn-Lynn's Trees, Wreaths, & Christmas Crafts
104 Shumate Drive
Warrensville, NC 28693
Ashe County
(336) 384-2451

Maines Tree Farm
113 Bob's Lane
Glade Valley, NC 28627
Alleghany County
(336) 363-2901

Mccall's Tree Farm
110 McCall Cove Road
Lake Toxaway, NC 28747
Transylvania County
(828) 877-3503
(828) 862-4608

Mcdaniel Tree Farms
900 Grandview Lane
Newland, NC 28657
Avery County
(828) 733-1554
(828) 733-4495

Mcinnis Tree Farms
468 Presnell Road
Sparta, NC 28675
Alleghany County
(336) 657-8072

Mcintyre Farms
57 You Drive
Swannanoa, NC 28778
McDowell County
(828) 298-8429

Mike's Farm & Country Store
767 Luther Banks Road
Beulaville, NC 28518
Onslow County
(910) 324-3422
www.mikesfarm.com

Mistletoe Meadows
583 Burnt Hill Road
Laurel Springs, NC 28644
Ashe County
(336) 982-9754
(336) 982-9754
www.mistletoemeadows.com

Moore Tree Farm
405 Parker Road
New Bern, NC 28562
Craven County
(252) 638-4160
www.ncagr.com/mooretree farm.htm

Moore's Christmas Trees
951 Oak Springs Road
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Rutherford County
(828) 287-2527

Mountain Memories Christmas Trees
500 Cox Road
Jefferson, NC 28640
Ashe County
(336) 246-7037
(336) 977-1608

Myers Christmas Trees
321 Elmwood Road
Statesville, NC 28625
Iredell County
(704) 872-7155

Nicholson Tree Farm
PO Box 38
Lake Toxaway, NC 28747
Transylvania County
(828) 883-8570
(828) 883-8570

Noble Forest Christmas Tree Farm
PO Box 116
Kipling, NC 27543
Harnett County
(919) 552-7957

Norris Tree Farm
1811 Meat Camp Road
Boone, NC 28607
Watauga County
(828) 262-1619
www.home.earthlink.net/ ~norristrees/

Northlake Christmas Trees & Nursery
7326 Meadowbrook Road
Benson, NC 27504
Johnston County
(919) 894-3524

Parker Tree Farm
230 Lyons Mountain Road
Brevard, NC 28712
Transylvania County
(828) 862-4427

Payne Christmas Tree & Horse Farm
959 Sherwood Road
Vilas, NC 28692
Watauga County
(828) 297-2255

Pine Shadows Farm
PO Box 121
Roaring Gap, NC 28668
Alleghany County
(336) 363-2890
(336) 363-2065

Pinetop Farm
830 Majolica Road
Salisbury, NC 28147
Rowan County
(704) 637-7208

Pop-N-Son Christmas Tree Farm
1201 Flanders Street
Hwy 50 South
Garner, NC 27529
Wake County
(919) 772-5299
(919) 772-0467
www.popnson.com

Radford Tree Farm
1476-B Old Smithfield Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530
Wayne County
(919) 734-2882

Raxter Tree Farm
1980 Walnut Hollow Road
Brevard, NC 28712
Transylvania County
(828) 862-3600

Ritchie's Trees 'N' Trim
1896 Brush Creek Road
Glade Valley, NC 28627
Alleghany County
(336) 363-3229

River Tree Farm
PO Box 124
676 Old Turnpike Road
Banner Elk, NC 28604
Avery County
(828) 898-5762
www.rivertreefarm.com

Roberts Tree Farm
223 Wilson Road
Ennice, NC 28623
Alleghany County
(336) 657-8587

RRR Tree Farm
PO Box 1712
Boone, NC 28607
Watauga County
(336) 385-6624
www.rrrtreefarm.com

Sam Miller Trees
14633 NC Hwy 18 South
Laurel Springs, NC 28644
Alleghany County
(336) 359-2365

Sam's Nursery
376 Logan's Lane
Newland, NC 28657
Avery County
(828) 733-3353
www.samsnursery.com

Sandy Hollar Tree Farm
63 Sandy Hollar Road
Leicester, NC 28748
Buncombe County
(828) 683-3645
(828) 683-2964

Satterfield's Briarpatch
162 Angel Drive
Robbinsville, NC 28771
Graham County
(828) 479-8013

Shady Rest Tree Farm
287 Trading Post Road
Glendale Springs, NC 28629
Ashe County
(336) 877-1908
(336) 982-2031
www.shadyresttreefarm.com

Shoal Creek Tree Farms
796 Shoal Creek Road
Balsam Grove, NC 28708
Transylvania County
(828) 884-6396
(828) 553-0928

Smith Tree Farm
27 East Cope Creek Road
PO Box 2156
Sylva, NC 28779
Jackson County
(828) 586-3488
(828) 269-6769

Snow Creek Christmas Trees
302 Slagle Road
Bakersville, NC 28705
Mitchell County
(828) 688-2376
(828) 688-1096

Spillman Tree Farm
10054 Archdale Road
Trinity, NC 27370
Randolph County
(336) 434-1042
(336) 434-1090
www.spillmanschristmastrees.com

Sugar Plum Farm
1263 Isaacs Branch Road
Plum Tree, NC 28664
Avery County
(828) 765-0019
(888) 257-0019
www.sugarplumfarm.com

Ted Craig
160 Frasier Fir Drive
Bryson City, NC 28713
Swain County
(488) 395-3954

Teri-Jim's Christmas Trees
350 Ruskin Road
Dudley, NC 28333
Wayne County
(919) 735-8140
(919) 735-6428

The Pines
530 Cedar Street
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
Halifax County
(252) 537-3636

The Tree Patch
1515 Clearwater Drive
Sanford, NC 27330
Lee County
(919) 776-6475

Tom Sawyer Tree Farm
240 Chimney Pond Road
Glenville, NC 28736
Jackson County
(828) 743-5456
www.tomsawyertrees.com

Top Of The Mountain Christmas Trees
PO Box 30
Glendale Springs, NC 28629
Ashe County
(919) 851-4206
(336) 982-3507
www.topofthemtnchristmas trees.com

Troy Farms
PO Box 455
Liberty, NC 27298
Randolph County
(336) 622-3375

Twin Pines Nursery
87 Twin Pine Lane
Pineola, NC 28662
Avery County
(828) 733-0776

Ty-Lyn Plantation
PO Box 798
Cashiers, NC 28717
Jackson County
(828) 743-3899
www.tylynplantation.com

Vaughan's Blue Ridge Nursery
PO Box 130
Pineola, NC 28662
Avery County
(828) 733-0330
(828) 733-5150

Wagoner's
5513 Falls of Neuse Road
Raleigh, NC 27609
Wake County
(919) 301-8733
(919) 571-3432

Wayland's Nursery
1003 Round Knob Ridge Road
West Jefferson, NC 28694
Ashe County
(336) 246-7729

Wesley Creek Tree Farm
124 Gibson Branch Road
Clyde, NC 28721
Haywood County
(828) 627-8077

What Fir! Tree Farm
330 Wolf Ridge Trail
Boone, NC 28607
Watauga County
(828) 297-4646
www.whatfirtreefarm.com

Wilson's Tree Farm
Box 246
Kenansville, NC 28349
Pitt County
(910) 296-0824
(252) 746-6629

The Made in North Carolina Store

By Jennifer Taylor

How many times have you been on vacation and wanted to buy a local souvenir only to find out that it was made in a foreign country? That was Chris and Renee Almond's frustration while traveling several years ago. They wanted to purchase a gift native to the area they were visiting. Jumping from gift shop to mercantile store, all the Almonds could find were products made in another country.

Prior to their vacation, Chris and Renee had brainstormed for several months about a meaningful business they could open. During this trip, an idea was born and the Almonds embarked on a different kind of journey. They decided to open a store that would sell items made only in North Carolina. Chris and Renee began their research and spent approximately two years compiling information on products made from the Smoky Mountains to the Outer Banks.

Finally in June 2004, the Almonds opened The Made in North Carolina Store in downtown Waynesville in the mountains of Haywood County. After opening, Chris and Renee attended classes at Haywood Community College's Business Center for training that would help them market the store and make it shopper-friendly.

Members of Haywood Electric Membership Cooperative, the Almonds even gathered merchandise ideas from Carolina Country magazine. Can you guess what the first products were? Cheerwine and Hatteras Hammocks.

Inside the store, the Almonds' dog Lady greets customers as they walk through the door with a "hometown hello." From wall to wall you see a wide range and variety of products: gourmet food, fine wine, hot sauce, carpet cleaner, hammock chairs, ginger chews, books by North Carolina authors, homemade soaps and candles. Some of the store's best-selling items include Texas Pete Hot Sauce, JohnBoy and Billy's Grillin' Sauce and Bone Suckin' Sauce. They sell Old-Fashioned Peach Buds, an eclectic selection of cookies, candies, gourmet coffees and nuts. The Made in North Carolina Store is also a place where local artists and craftsmen can sell their items on consignment.

Chris and Renee are especially proud of their gift baskets. You can chose your own items or they can select an already-prepared basket. Gift baskets can be shipped anywhere.

The Made in North Carolina Store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday–Saturday, or you can browse and order from the Web site.

292 N. Haywood St.
Waynesville, NC 28786
(828) 454-5058
www.themadeinnorthcarolinastore.com

Got Land?

- WE build on YOUR lot, or on property you'd like to purchase.
- WE pay construction loan interest!
- WE pay points & closing cost!
- NO DOWN PAYMENT!
- Land & Home financing available.
- 2 Locations: Charlotte & Columbia

FREE BROCHURE
Just mail this coupon or call today

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Where do you intend to build: _____
Mail to:

Madison Homebuilders
1721 East Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28203

FOR A FREE BROCHURE WITH FLOOR PLANS CALL TOLL FREE:

1-800-957-9304

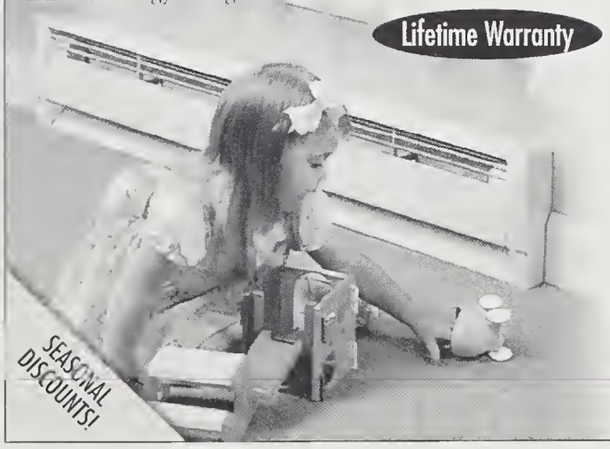
Madison Homebuilders
www.madisonhomebuilders.net

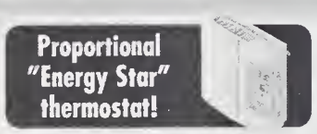
Families Have Saved Up To 50% On Heating Costs

And never have to buy fuel — wood, oil, gas, kerosene — ever again!

Hydro-Sil is a unique room-by-room heating system that can **save you hundreds of dollars** in home heating costs by replacing old and inefficient heating. It can replace or supplement your electric heat, gas or oil furnace and woodstoves.

Hydro-Sil represents economy in heating: inside the heater case is a sealed copper tube filled with a harmless silicone fluid. **It's permanent. You'll never run out.** "Hydro-Sil Energy Star" thermostat controls a variable watt hydro element that is *only* being supplied a *proportional* amount of power on an as-needed basis. When Hydro-Sil is turned on, the silicone liquid is quickly heated, and with its heat retention qualities, continues to heat after the Hydro element shuts off. Hydro-Sil's room-by-room "Energy Star" digital control technology greatly increases energy savings and comfort.





YOUR BENEFITS WITH HYDRO-SIL:
- Slash heating cost with Energy Star technology
- Lifetime warranty. No service contracts
- Safe, complete peace of mind
- Clean, no fumes, environmentally safe
- U.L. listed
- Preassembled — ready to use
- No furnaces, ducts, or chimneys
- Portable (110V) or permanent (220V)
- Whole house heating or single room

HERE'S WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING...

•**F. Smalley** - "***A company that advertises the truth*** saved me 50% compared to my gas heat. I found it hard to believe until my power bill came. Thanks a million!"

•**R. Hanson** - "I can't begin to tell you how pleased I am with Hydro-Sil... the first time in 25 years our electric bill was reduced... ***saved $635, over 40%!***"

•**A. Gonsalves**— "We replaced 20 electric heaters with Hydro-Sil. ***Wow — what a difference!*** We received a substantial reduction of our electric bill. I have recommended Hydro-Sil to many people!"

ORDER TODAY!
2 MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM

220 Volt Permonent	Approx. Area to Heat	Discount Price	Quantity
8' 2000 watts	250-300 s.f.	$289	
6' 1500 watts	180-250 s.f.	$259	
5' 1250 watts	130-180 s.f.	$239	
4' 1000 watts	100-130 s.f.	$219	
3' 750 watts	75-100 s.f.	$189	
2' 500 watts	50-75 s.f.	$169	
Thermostats	Call for options & exact heater needed		

110 Volt Portables (Thermostat Included)	Discount Price	Quantity
5' Hydro-Max 750-1500 watts	$219	
4' Convector – Dual watt	$179	
3' 750 watts – Silicone	$179	
$15.00 shipping per heater	$	
Total Amount	$	

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St ____ Zip ____
Phone _____
MasterCard or Visa Account Information:
Acct # _____
Expiration Date _____

Order today or contact us for more information
PHONE • WEB • MAIL
Check • MasterCard • Visa

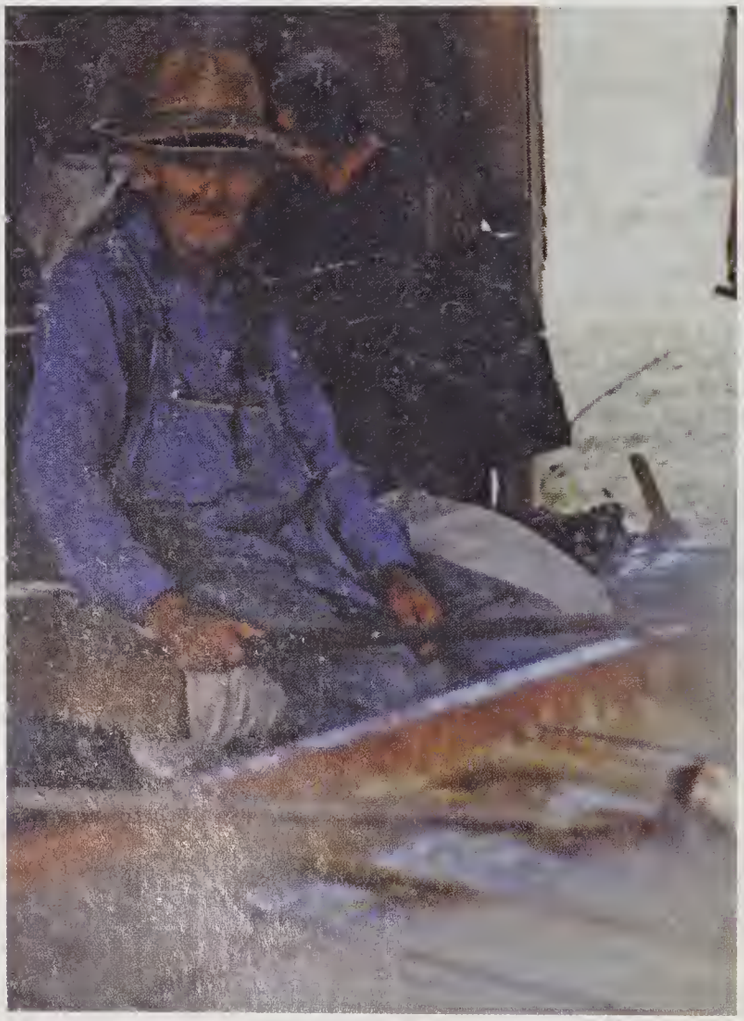
1-800-627-9276
Visit our secure web site at
www.hydrosil.com
Hydro-Sil, P.O. Box, 662,
Fort Mill, SC 29715

MAKING molasses

I took this picture that shows Lonnie Johnson and his grandfather, Alex Johnson, making molasses in Person County in 1963.

In the spring I planted cane seed. In the fall we cut the stalks and pulled off the fodder or leaves. We ran the stalks through a molasses mill (shown) that crushed the stalks so juice ran out. A conveyor belt connected to a pulley on the tractor ran the machine. In earlier times, mules walked in a circle to work the machine. The juice went into a large vat or clean hog-scalding trough, which we placed on long slender poles, then lit a fire underneath it. The juice cooked for several hours and at the proper time we added some soda to it. The molasses must be stirred frequently to prevent it from scorching and sticking to the bottom. After the molasses reached the right consistency, we removed the fire and let the molasses cool. Then we put it in jars.

Maurice Hester, Hurdle Mills



These are my parents, Elbert and Pearl Williamson, at their farm in the Westmoore community in Moore County. For more than 60 years my family made our own cane syrup, or molasses as some would call it. In the early years, if a neighbor was ready to harvest their cane, we would move our syrup mill from one farm to another and help them make their syrup. Later on our mill became stationary, and people would come from all over to bring their cane to our house to make the syrup.

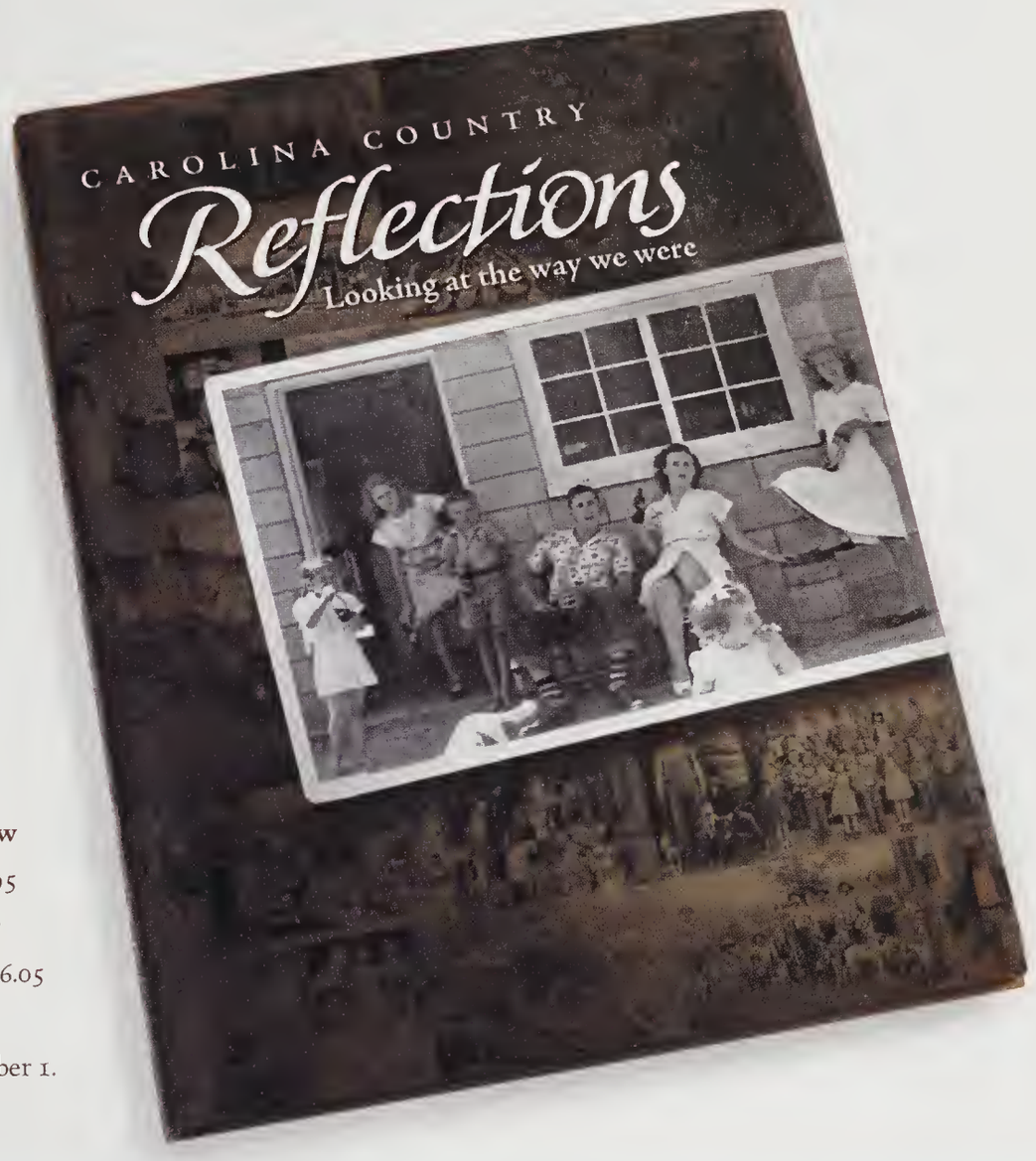
As children, our job was to get up very early and head out to the cane patch and start cutting and pulling the fodder. I can remember many times when it would be so cold that ice had formed on the cane, but that didn't stop us. We would then haul the cane to the mill by mule and wagon and run the cane stalks through the grinding mill. The mill (which was turned by a mule for many years, then we started using a tractor) would squeeze all the juice out of the stalks. The juice ran down a trough to the cooking bins. My daddy would start the fire and it would take about three hours in the cooking process before the beautiful golden brown syrup was ready to be poured into jars. That was my mother's job. My parents would sell extra syrup they made for around $3 a gallon.

Seems like a lot of hard work for such little profit, but we made many great memories at that old mill, which still stands. My youngest brother operates it today.

Herbert Williamson, Seagrove

See more photos and stories of life in rural North Carolina before 1970 in the new book "Carolina Country Reflections: Looking Back at the Way We Were."

NOW AVAILABLE



"**Carolina Country Reflections**," a book of nearly 200 photographs showing life in rural North Carolina before 1970, is now available for shipping. The pictures show scenes of families, farms, working, gatherings, fun times and everyday life, along with the stories behind the pictures.

This is a limited edition printing of a high-quality, hardcover "coffee table book," measuring 8½ x 11 inches with 160 pages. **Now available for the special price of $46** ($38.95 plus $4.32 shipping and $2.73 sales tax). After January 1, 2006, the price is $52 ($42.95 plus $6.05 shipping and $3.00 sales tax) To help ensure delivery by Christmas, place orders by December 1. For two-day delivery, add $10 per book.

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

TWO WAYS TO ORDER

Fill out form and pay by check, money order or credit card. Make checks payable to Carolina Country. Send to: Carolina Country Reflections, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611

OR

For easy ordering online with a credit card, go to our Web site, www.CarolinaCountry.com and look for "Carolina Country Reflections."

Please send _____ copy (or copies)
Special introductory price $46 per book (includes shipping and tax). $52 per book after January 1, 2006.

☐ **Please rush** (add $10 per book, two-day delivery)

Total Enclosed $_____

NAME

MAILING ADDRESS PHONE

CITY STATE ZIP COUNTY

VISA MasterCard American Express Card
CARD TYPE (PLEASE CIRCLE) CARD NO. EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

☐ This is a gift, please send to: (you can place gift orders at our Web site, too)

NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

GREETINGS FROM

Touchstone Energy & 4-H Making the Best Better

The 9th Annual EMC State 4-H Clover Classic to raise funds for North Carolina's 4-H Youth Development Program drew 112 golfers gathered to Treyburn Country Club in Durham, September 19, 2005. This year, 11 county 4-H programs in partnership with regional Touchstone Energy cooperatives held local tournaments that culminated in this statewide tournament, sponsored by the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.

The tournament also included a silent auction on the course and a reception. The event raised more than $11,000 for the 4-H Citizenship North Carolina Focus, an annual citizenship experience for 4-H'ers across North Carolina.

Touchstone Energy was the Grand Patron. Golf Patrons included cooperatives that partnered in local tournaments with corporate sponsors, including Albemarle EMC, Central EMC, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Halifax EMC, Piedmont EMC and South River EMC. Other cooperatives that partnered with their local 4-H programs but were not able to participate in the tournament were Jones-Onslow EMC and Union Power Cooperative.

The nine local tournaments raised over $70,000 to help fund programs for their local county 4-H programs, such as intra-state exchanges, project and curriculum costs and scholarships for camp.

Each year a cooperative is awarded the President's Cup honoring the outstanding partnership between a cooperative and the county 4-H program. This year, Halifax EMC won the award. The Halifax golf tournament raised $8,000 for the Halifax County 4-H Rural Life Center. This is the 16th year that this tournament has been held in Halifax County. The President's Cup is endowed through the Dr. Mike Davis Family Fund for 4-H Innovation and Excellence.

The North Carolina 4-H Youth Development program serves over 181,145 young people, ages 5-19, in North Carolina and involves more than 23,000 adult and youth volunteers annually. Local 4-H programs are supported by the Cooperative Extension Service within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University and North Carolina A & T State University.

4-H has offices in all 100 counties plus the Cherokee Reservation. For more information about the 4-H Youth Development Program, contact your local Cooperative Extension office or the state 4-H office at (919) 515-3242. Mailing address: NCSU Box 7606, Raleigh, NC, 27695-7606.

Statement of Ownership and Circulation

Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

Title of Publication: Carolina Country

Publication Number: ISSN 0008-6746

Filing Date: September 14, 2005

Issued monthly, 12 times annually.

Subscription price is $3.50 for members, $10.00 for non-members. Mailing address of office is P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7306 or 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616, Wake County.

Publisher is North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7306. Editor is Michael E.C. Gery, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7306.

Owner is North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7306. There are no other owners or bondholders. The purpose, function and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.

Circulation: Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, also actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date. (September 2005). Total copies: Average 555,048 (September 574,079).

Paid Circulation: Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales: None. Mail subscription: Average 543,192 (September 562,162).

Total Paid Circulation: Average 543,192 (September 562,162).

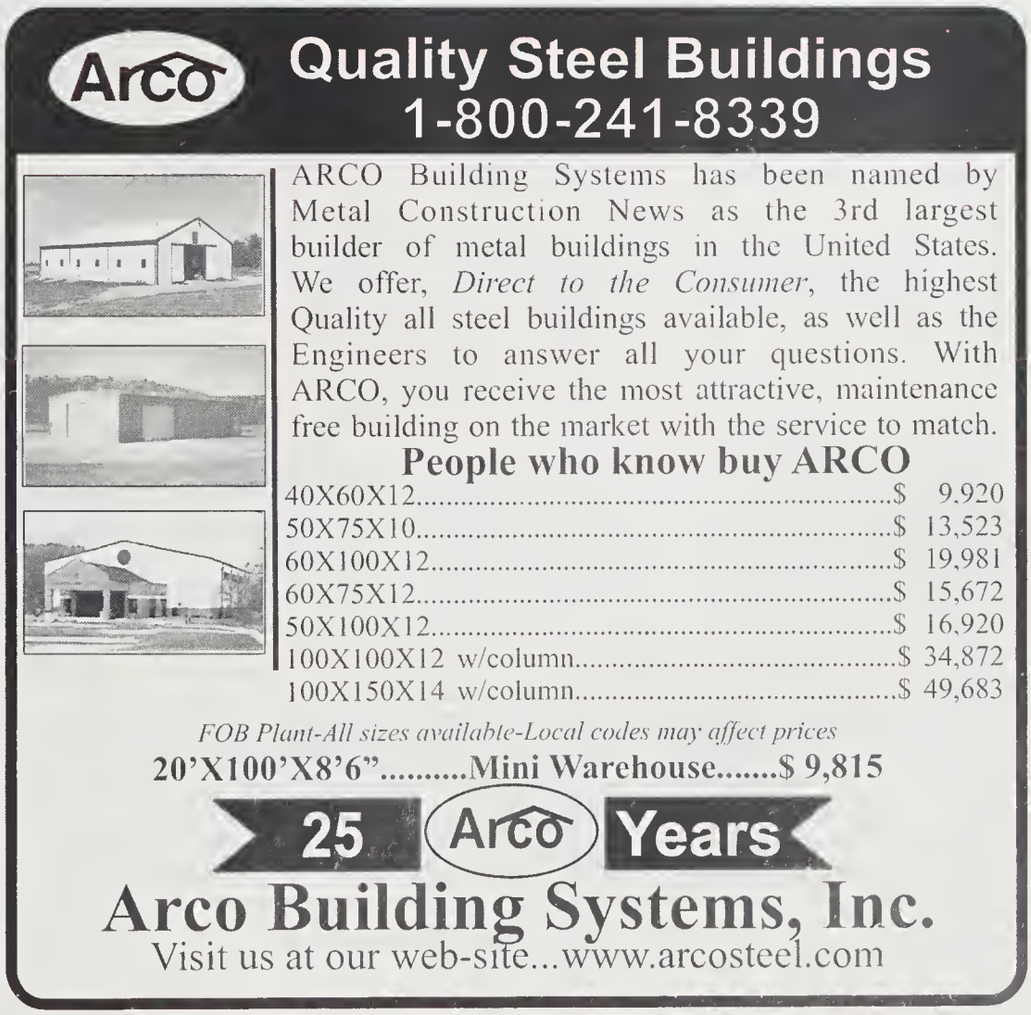
Free Distribution by mail carrier, or other means, samples complimentary and other free copies: Average 11,855 (September 11,917).

Total Distribution: Average: 555,048 (September 574,079).

Copies Not Distributed: Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled after printing; Average: 0 (September: 0). Returns from news agents: None.

Total: Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 555,048 (September 574,079).

Introductory Offer for Customers in the Continental U.S. Only
COLLIN STREET BAKERY presents
New! Miniature Native Texas Pecan Cakes
DOUBLE BONUS!
FREE U.S. Delivery!
FREE Collector Tin!
Looking for a charming, yet affordable gift? Send a Miniature Native Texas Pecan Cake. Your choice of the Original DeLuxe Fruitcake, Apricot Pecan Fruitcake, Pineapple Pecan Cake, or Apple Cinnamon Pecan Cake. Or, order the set of 4. Each cake is made and decorated with the same ingredients as our larger cakes, except they are just 9 oz. each.
#420 Miniature Original DeLuxe Fruitcake $14.95
#421 Miniature Apricot Pecan Cake $17.95
#422 Miniature Pineapple Pecan Cake $15.95
#423 Miniature Apple Cinnamon Pecan Cake $16.95
#424 Set of 4 Miniature Pecan Cakes $49.95
To get your FREE double bonus, mention Code 510020
Toll-Free: 800-292-7400 www.CollinStreetBakery.com
Collin Street Bakery. 401 W. Seventh Ave., Corsicana, TX 75110 Prices effective through December 31, 2005


Arco
Quality Steel Buildings
1-800-241-8339
ARCO Building Systems has been named by Metal Construction News as the 3rd largest builder of metal buildings in the United States. We offer, Direct to the Consumer, the highest Quality all steel buildings available, as well as the Engineers to answer all your questions. With ARCO, you receive the most attractive, maintenance free building on the market with the service to match.
People who know buy ARCO
40X60X12.....$ 9,920
50X75X10.....$ 13,523
60X100X12.....$ 19,981
60X75X12.....$ 15,672
50X100X12.....$ 16,920
100X100X12 w/column.....$ 34,872
100X150X14 w/column.....$ 49,683
FOB Plant-All sizes available-Local codes may affect prices
20'X100'X8'6".....Mini Warehouse.....$ 9,815
25 Arco Years
Arco Building Systems, Inc.
Visit us at our web-site...www.arcosteel.com

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM

Carolina country if...

...you know the term

"like a duck on a june bug"

From Lisa Squires, Kenly

From Patricia Sides, Seagrove

... You lay in the grass and watch the clouds go by and name the shapes.

... You make a necklace out of wild daisies.

... Daddy took you for a ride on the riding mower to the corner curb market.

... Daddy sent you to the corner gas station with 40 cents to put in the machine to get a pack of Pall Malls, because you love to pull the handle and hear them drop.

... The men folk call it "galavantin'" when they go out on Saturday night. And the other folks say they're "scooter-pootin'" when they do it.

... You do OK with three channels on the black and white TV.

From Steven Preddy (teenager), Franklinton

... You are leaning over the tailgate of a Dodge throwing up so it won't get his rear bumper dirty while your brother drives you around.

... You put ATV tires on the rear end of your Poulan lawnmower so it won't get stuck mowing the barn pasture.

... Your nickname has nothing to do with your real name or anything you did.

From Guy & Darlene Brittain, Connelly Springs

... You caught bumblebees in the Rose of Sharon blossoms and shook them up, then let them loose.

... You get hold of a chicken snake while gathering eggs.

... You cracked hickory nuts and picked out the goodies with a bobby pin.

... For picking huckleberries, you put a joint of stovepipe on each leg to keep away the rattlesnake.

... You call your car trunk a "cooter shell."

... Your mom parches you some goobers in the woodstove after supper.

... You buy five gallons of root beer mix from the Watkins salve man.

From Monique Smith, Erwin

... You know that "mustard" is not only the yellow stuff in bottle that you put on hot dogs, but it is a type of green vegetable.

... You sat on the front porch with your grandmother to help her do some cannin'.

From Kathy Ramirez, Greene County

... You thought your forehead was your "fard."

From Connie L. Lowry, Siler City

... You call your Sunday School book a "quartly."

... Your Mom calls and you will be there "da-reckly."

... You get a new frock for Easter.

From Renee C. Gannon, Wake Forest (formerly of Concord)

... You called Mopeds "likker cycles" because men who had lost their driver's license from a DWI puttered those motorized bicycles around town.

From Alice Webb, Fayetteville

... You know what a taw and an aggie and a cat's eye are (marbles).

... You had a cat hole in the back door.

... You know what Jack rocks are and what a Jack leg mechanic is.

... You called loaf bread "light bread."

... You know where the jumping-off place is and someone who has gone there.

... You know someone who has gone over fool's hill.

... You have cooled off in a rain barrel in summer.

... You know what "wool gathering" means (daydreaming).

From Beth Croom, Pikeville

... Your grandmother told you that a man called "Raw Head and Bloody Bones" lived in the woods behind your house just to keep you from playing in there.

... The highlight of your day is waiting for R.B. Crawford to open the store at 5:00 in the afternoon.

... You know what a speckle ball is.

... You know what a "round and a thru" is.

... You know what "the short rows" are.

... You consider potted meat a delicacy.

... You buy your car tires from Nahunta Grocery.

From Janet Hunter, Clinton

... You know the term "like a duck on a june bug."

... You've had a chainey ball fight with your cousins.

... You know the difference between a square nab and a round nab.

... You know what it means when your ma is fixin' to snatch a nappy knot in your behind.

... You know what it means if you hear or see something that makes your teeth sharp.

... You've used sidemeat to draw out the rust when stepping on a nail.

From Mary Meadows, Teachey

... You've eaten mullet gizzards and rice.
... All of your school clothes came from the mill end store or were home-made.
... Your grandparents heated red lina-ment and drank it for colds and flu.
... You flattened tin cans to nail over the top of fence posts.
... You dried rabbit tobacco on the tin roof of the chicken house.
... You like cow butter with wild onions in it.
... You picked the corn flakes out of sweet feed and ate them.
... You rode the bus to school, and your big brother drove it.
... You wove palmetto hats, fans and baskets.
... Your hair was curled with factory cloth strips.
... You had chinaberry fights every day.
... When you got in trouble you had to memorize Bible verses and recite them.

From Cathy Wallace Crumpler, Mount Olive

... You walked behind your father's John Deere tractor while he was plowing land just to cool your feet in the freshly plowed soil.
... You walked the side of an oil drum and scraped your knees.
... You rode to the beach with your feet hanging out the window.
... You made mud pies (mud chicken legs, mud potatoes or whatever was on the menu) with a Pepsi bottle of water, sandy dirt and Mama's old pie tins.
... You made hula skirts from "chainey ball" tree limbs so you could pretend you were in an exotic place.
... You climbed pecan trees to retrieve cats, bomb your sister with pecans or just to look down the road to see if the mailman was coming.
... You ate dinner on the ground at your church's homecoming and looked for a tailgate to sit on to enjoy your meal or a shade tree to keep you cool, then listened to visiting singers for a cou-ple of hours and didn't feel like you had other things to do.

If you know any that we haven't published, send them to:

E-mail: editor@carolinacountry.com
Mail: P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611
Web: www.carolinacountry.com

GO ONLINE **See more on our Web site.**

"We were drowning in debt...until The Mortgage Outlet threw us a lifeline!"

"Even though our credit isn't perfect, we were able to pay off a $76,000 mort-gage, and $34,000 worth of auto loans and credit card debt. Plus, we got $20,000 cash!

Combining all our bills saved us over $1,400 a month, and with that plus the $20,000, we were able to make home improvements, pay college tuition, and take a wonderful vacation.

Thanks, Mortgage Outlet!"

All it takes is a 10 minute phone call!

Look how low your payments could be at 4.75%

Loan Amount	Loan Amount	Loan Amount
$75,000	$100,000	$150,000
Monthly Pymt.	Monthly Pymt.	Monthly Pymt.
$391.24*	$521.65*	$782.47*

*5.352 Annual percentage rate, 1 yr. ARM, 2/6 caps LIBOR, 2.25 margin, 30 yr. term. Subject to credit, collateral and income requirements. Rates as of 09/21/05. Rates subject to change.

• Buy your dream home with **no money down** - even take money out to pay bills!

• Get up to 125% of home's value with **no appraisal!**

Programs available for: • Self employed/unable to verify income • Refinance to a lower rate • Less than perfect credit • Doublewide homes with land

Call anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

The Mortgage Outlet, Inc. - 1-888-268-6690

(Homeowners only, please)

10 State Residential Mortgage Lender • License #6208

• Visit us at www.moneyoutlet.com •

20' x 100' x 8'6"
$8,950
LET US SHOW YOU WHY WE'RE #1
HERITAGE BUILDING SYSTEMS®
800.643.5555
www.heritagebuildings.com

Steel Building Sale
Factory Direct Lowest Prices For Any Size Building
Full Customer Service • "We Erect and Do Foundations"
Visit our website at www.tatumsteel.com for complete information
For Free Quotes 1-800-869-0532
or e-mail: buildings@tatumsteel.com
TATUM STEEL BUILDINGS CORP.

COLUMBIAN LIFE INSURANCE, CHICAGO IL
Dignified Choice Classic 1 Final Expense
To age 85, $2,500 to $25,000

AGE	$10,000	$25,000
50	$23.91	$55.27
65	$44.63	$107.07
70	$57.07	$138.18

Female nonsmoker rate. Policy form 1F140-C
Male smoker rates available.
TOLL FREE 1-800-850-4605

CHOIR ROBES
EXPERT TAILORING $31.95 & UP
Finest fabrics including permanent press and wash & wear. Superior quality. Free color catalog and fabric swatches on request.
GUARANTEED SATISFACTION
Call Toll Free:
1-800-826-8612
REGENCY CAP & GOWN CO.
www.rcgown.com
P.O. Box 8988-N Jacksonville, FL 32211

Best Prices - Best Buildings.

The extra space you need — at a price you can afford!
Save thousands on: 25'x30', 30'x60', 35'x54' & More!
U.S. Buildings
Garages
Workshops
Storage
Agriculture
Hobbies
1-800-405-7501
www.us-buildings.com

STEEL DEPOT
METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS
"The Name To Look For In Quality Steel Buildings"
1-800-541-0302
From 30 X 30 up to 200 X Unlimited
Lowest Prices X Highest Quality
Also Lowest Price on Mini-Storage

LOWEST COST
Term Life Insurance
Issue ages through 90

AGE	$100,000	$250,000
45	12.78	22.75
55	16.19	31.28
65	31.06	68.47

Rates figured on monthly cost for female non-tobacco users.
RAMLET & ASSOC, INC.
(800) 933-6354
TALIC FORM NO. 1-32207-198

NEW RATES FROM 1.25%
High Payments? Call for help!
REFINANCE • DEBT CONSOLIDATION • HOME IMPROVEMENTS • NOT SO PERFECT CREDIT
NO INCOME VERIFICATION • PREVIOUS BANKRUPTCY OK • DOUBLEWIDES WITH LAND
Homeowners, Consolidate Debt Now! NO UPFRONT FEES!

SAMPLE LOAN	PAYMENT	TERM	RATE*	APR
$50,000	$187.50	HM EQTY	4.50**	4.87%
$100,000	$777.83	15 YR. Fixed	4.75*	5.05%
$150,000	$816.73	30 YR. Fixed	5.12*	5.32%
$200,000	$770.83	5 YR ARM	4.62***	5.34%
$200,000	$666.50	Power Arm	1.25***	4.83%

* Conforming loans for 70 LTV rate/term refinance transactions. Rates fixed. **Interest only home equity line of credit at 80 LTV. Interest only payments for up to ten years. Principle payments may be made at any time up to maturity date without penalty. ***ARM loans are 70 LTV rate term refinance transactions. Power ARM adjusts monthly with annual payment changes. Rates and payments subject to change without notice.

Your Local Lender
NC
SC
GA

Real People...Real Results!
Go to the Source
EquiSource HOME MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Applications Taken 24 Hours a Day 7 Days A Week!
1-800-794-6178
Apply online—www.equisourcehomemtg.com

MOBILE HOME ROOF PROBLEMS?
PERMA-ROOF® from Southern Builders
The Mobile Home Roofover Specialist Can Help!

LIFETIME WARRANTY
ONE FOOT OVER-HANG
NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE
COMMERCIAL GRADE STEEL
2"or 3" FOIL BACKED INSULATION
CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
www.roofover.com
1-800-633-8969

SCRAMBLED#8

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
A		M				L				A
B			A					E		B
C	E						B	D	M	C
D		D				A	M		S	D
E					E					E
F	B		M	D				A		F
G	C	L	R						B	G
H		S					D			H
I				R				M		I
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

Arrange the nine letters in SCRAMBLED so that each letter appears only once in each column, each row and each 3 x 3 square. To solve, eliminate the impossiblities in each of the 81 cells. Answer will be published here next month.

UNSCRAMBLIT

_ _____ __ __ ___
u nltth ra ug uaa

_ _____ __ _ ____ __ ___ _____
u nltthe ra u yhio rg byo pthlgc

A good speller knows the difference.

Use the capital letters in the code clue below to fill in the blanks above.

"ABDEGHILNORSTUW" means
uncopyrightable

Answer on page 34.

Doctor's license suspended after death

—Hendersonville Times-News

You can't take it with you.

whose hue?

They tell me grass is green.

They say the sky is blue.

But if the sky looks green to me,

how do I know what's true?

For green is just a word,

and so, indeed, is blue.

So what appears as green to me

may look like blue to you.

The child of a colorblind mother

can never be certain of hues–

The words I learned at Mother's knee

are giving me the blues.

—Charles Joyner

BUILT TO LAST
AND PRICED TO SELL...

Compare our everyday price for our 25'x40' building:

$4,990 FRONT END OPTIONAL

- **EASY DO IT YOURSELF**
- **30-YEAR WARRANTY**
- **100% USEABLE SPACE**

• Many sizes, shapes & applications! • Tough, rugged building – lasts! • Heavy gauge Galvalume steel • Easy to finish trussless interior • Totally maintenance free!

PIONEER STEEL BUILDINGS GO FACTORY DIRECT
800-668-5422
www.pioneersteel.com
23 YEARS OF REPUTATION BUILT OF STEEL

You're Successful...

...BUT, wouldn't you like a partner who is an engineer, a marketing whiz, a flawless secretary, a master craftsman, *and* a certified accountant?

Have It All With A Name You Can Trust

Wick Buildings
800-356-9682
Dealership Opportunities Now Available
www.WickBuildings.com

Carolina country
Visit **www.carolinacountry.com** to submit your classified ads online and to pay by credit card.
VISA MasterCard American Express Cards

JOYNER'S CORNER ANSWERS:
UNSCRAMBLIT!
A BURRO IS AN ASS. A BURROW IS A HOLE IN THE GROUND. A good speller knows the difference.

Farm • Industrial • Commercial
20 Year Warranty on Roof & Walls;
Prices F.O.B. Mfg. Plants;
Seal Stamped Blue Prints;
Easy Bolt Together Design.

PRICES INCLUDE COLOR SIDES & GALVALUME ROOF

30' x 50' x 10'.....$7,695
40' x 60' x 12'.....$10,725
60' x 100' x 16'.....$24,590
80' x 100' x 16'.....$32,225
100' x 150' x 16'.....$55,450

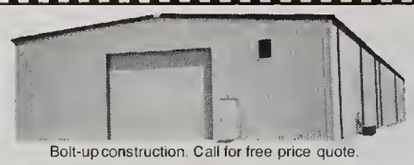
Arena Special (roof & frame) 120' x 100' x 16'...$42,800

VISIT OUR WEBSITE **RHINO®** VISIT OUR WEBSITE
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS
Fax: 940-484-6746 email: rhinobld@GTE.NET
Website: http://www.RHINOBLDG.COM
Toll Free **1-888-320-7466**

ADVANTAGE
STEEL BUILDINGS, INC.
For The Best Building Package At the Absolute Lowest Prices
Call Today (877) 657-8335
Or go Online At
www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

30x50x10	$ 6,290.00
40x60x12	$ 8,975.00
50x75x14	$13,547.00
80x120x16	$32,133.00

We Also Have Mini-Storage Packages
All Sizes Including Climate Control



Bolt-up construction. Call for free price quote.

40x50x12	60x75x14	100x125x16-M1
$8,338	$15,528	$39,033

Ask us about our mini storage buildings.....

PROGRESSIVE
STEEL BUILDINGS INC.
"Strong Today, Safe Tomorrow"
www.progressivesteelbuildings.com

Office (800) 664-0567
Fax (501) 834-8407

Attention Landowners!

$0 Down Payment

Plus No Points, Closing Costs, PMI, or Payments During Construction.

- *Over 25 models*
- *2, 3 and 4 BR models*
- *In-house financing*
- *Built on your land*
- *Board-by-board construction*
- *Land and home financing*

The Bakersfield

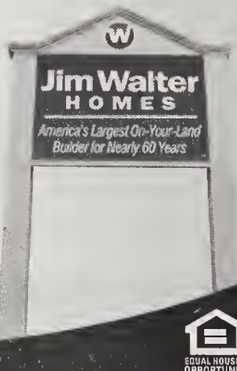
See Yourself in a Jim Walter Home.™

CALL 1-800-4-WALTER for a free *Home Free* brochure.

CLICK to see ALL-NEW floorplans at *jimwalterhomes.com*

VISIT our SALES CENTER near you:

ASHEVILLE, CHARLOTTE, ELIZABETH CITY, FAYETTEVILLE AND ROCKY MOUNT



Home illustration may include additions, options or modifications not part of our standard offerings. Specifications subject to change and elimination. Zero down payment available for qualified landowners. Land and home financing available through Walter Mortgage Company. Shrubs and landscaping have been added for effect. For complete details, see your Jim Walter Homes sales counselor. State license numbers: NC-10840, SC- 19514 4211 W Boy Scout Blvd Tampa, FL 33607. ©2005 Jim Walter Homes, Inc. Copyright strictly enforced.

www.jimwalterhomes.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PREMIER
BUILDING SYSTEMS
1-800-882-5150 **(770) 239-2085**
PBS

The more you look, The better we look!

30x40x10.....$6,229
50x60x12.....$11,305
60x100x12.....$19,995
100x150x16.....$ 59,475

Does not include freight tax, any construction cost. *Codes & market may affect prices.

ALL SIZES AVAILABLE
26 GA., 20 YEAR WARRANTY ROOF & WALLS

MINI WAREHOUSES AVAILABLE
20 X 100 X 8'-6"... $8,299

Custom Quality Steel Buildings at Discount Prices!
www.premierbuildings.com

November Events

Head on over to the Frogtown Pottery Festival in Robbins on Saturday, November 5. Call (910) 948-3540.

MOUNTAINS

Lois Deloatch Concert
Nov. 4, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
www.ashecountyarts.org

Annual Foothills Highland Games
Nov. 5, Hendersonville
(828) 693-8526
www.foothillshg.org

Blacksmith Auction
Nov. 5, Murphy
(800) 365-5724
www.folkschool.org

Heritage Jubilee Family Festival
Nov. 5, Lowgap
(336) 352-3110

Acoustic Live
Nov. 5–Feb. 25, Saturdays, Marion, (828) 652-6216
www.uniquegalleriesNC.com

Gospel Sing
Nov. 18–Feb. 17, Third Fridays, Marion, (828) 652-6216
www.uniquegalleriesNC.com

Blue Ridge Concert
Nov. 11, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
www.ashecountyarts.org

Pandean Players Concert
Nov. 13, Brasstown
(828) 389-0033
www.mapaa.org/html/performance_schedule.html

"Light Up Murphy"
Nov. 18–19, Murphy
(828) 837-6821

Annual Potters Market
Nov. 19, Marion
(828) 652-8610

McDowell Artisans Show & Sale
Nov. 19, Marion
(828) 652-8610

"The Wild Turkey"
Nov. 19, Lake James State Park
(828) 652-5047

"Tickling the Ivories"
Nov. 19, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
www.ashecountyarts.org

Christmas Parade
Nov. 20, Marion
(828) 652-2215

Christmas Parade
Nov. 26, Sparta
(800) 372-5473

Hometown Christmas Celebration
Dec. 3, Murphy
(828) 837-6821

Toe River Studio Tour
Dec. 3–4, Burnsville
(828) 682-7215
www.toeriverarts.org

PIEDMONT

Annual Carolina Renaissance Festival
Through Nov. 13, Huntersville
(877) 896-5544
www.renfestinfo.com

"The Ten Tenors"
Nov. 1, Yanceyville
(336) 694-4591

Gingerbread Arts & Crafts Fair
Nov. 3–5, Winston-Salem
(336) 659-7487

Cozy Cottage Craft Sale
Nov. 4–5, Kernersville
(336) 993-2260

Annual Antiques Show
Nov. 4–6, Pinehurst
(910) 692-2051

Sheep Dog Trials
Nov. 4–6, Huntersville
(704) 875-3113
www.ruralhillfarm.org

Frogtown Pottery Festival
Nov. 5, Robbins
(910) 948-3540

Southmont Craft Show
Nov. 5, Southmont
(336) 798-3537

Bagpipe Concert & Celtic Performers
Nov. 5, High Point
(336) 906-2246
www.bagpipeconcert.com

Annual Christmas Kiln Opening
Nov. 5, Star
(910) 572-3554

Annual Open Studio Tour
Nov. 5–6 & 12–13, Chapel Hill
(919) 932-3438
www.openstudiotour.com

Rhonda Vincent and The Rage
Nov. 6, Oakboro
(704) 485-3649
www.oakboromusichall.com

"Southern Fried Chicks"
Nov. 8, Winston-Salem
(336) 723-6320
www.ncarts.edu/stevens_center

Bi-annual Quilt Show
Nov. 11–13, Asheboro
(336) 859-4847

What's Cookin' Harvest Day
Nov. 12–13, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

International Auto Show
Nov. 17–20, Charlotte
(704) 364-1078
www.charlotteautoshow.com

"Drum"
Nov. 18, Yanceyville
(336) 694-4591

Preserving Rosenwald Schools
Nov. 18–19, Weldon
(800) 767-9111

Wind in the Willows
Nov. 18–19, Lexington
(336) 249-7875

Annual Piedmont Craftsmen's Fair
Nov. 18–20, Winston-Salem
(336) 725-1516
www.piedmontcraftsmen.org

Open Hearth Cooking
Nov. 19, High Point
(336) 885-1859
www.highpointmuseum.org

November Events *continued*

PilobolusToo is considered the "little luxury edition" of Pilobolus Dance Theatre, one of the dance world's most renowned ensembles. Catch a performance at East Carolina University's Wright Theater on December 1 in Greenville. Tickets cost $25 and go on sale November 13. Call (800) 328-2787 or visit www.ecuarts.com

Lonesome River Band
Nov. 19, Oakboro
(704) 485-3649
www.oakboromusichall.com

Annual Holiday Bazaar
Nov. 19–20, South Hill, VA
(434) 447-8162

Seagrove Pottery Festival
Nov. 19–20, Seagrove
(336) 873-7887
www.seagrovepotteryheritage.com

Homethrown Pottery Open House
Nov. 19–20, Trinity
(336) 476-8452
www.homethrownpottery.com

Civil War Infantry Weekend
Nov. 19–20, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

A Plantation Christmas
Nov. 25–26, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

Butterfly House Tour
Nov. 26, Durham
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmls.org

Eddie Miles, Christmas Concert
Nov. 26, Lexington
(866) 604-2389
www.eddiemiles.com

Annual Santa Train
Dec. 2–3, Durham
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmls.org

Bluegrass All-Star Show
Dec. 3, Oakboro
(704) 485-3649
www.oakboromusichall.com

Christmas at Bost Grist Mill
Dec. 3–4, Concord
(704) 782-1600
www.bostgristmill.com

"A Christmas Carol"
Dec. 5–6, Yanceyville
(336) 694-4591

COAST

Meherrin Chamber Orchestra Concert
Nov. 3, Murfreesboro
(252) 398-6201
www.chowan.edu/acadp/music/events.htm

Stampede in Park Rodeo
Nov. 4–5, Williamston
(252) 792-1521

Bazaar Extravaganza
Nov. 5, Hertford UMC
(252) 426-5467

N.C. Storytelling Festival
Nov. 5, Manteo
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

NOW SHOWING

A LISTING OF EXHIBITS

MOUNTAINS

Artwork by Dr. Viiu Lind
Nov. 1–30, Marion
McDowell Arts Council
Association Gallery
(828) 652-8610

"American Roots"
Through Nov. 17, West Jefferson, Ashe Arts Center
(336) 846-2787
www.ashecountyarts.org

"Music and Tree Fest"
Nov. 21–Dec. 29, West Jefferson, Ashe Arts Center
(336) 846-2787
www.ashecountyarts.org

"Sights & Sounds of Christmas"
Through Jan. 2006, Lenoir
Caldwell Heritage Museum
(828) 758-4004

PIEDMONT

Annual Sculpture in Garden
Through Nov. 18,
Chapel Hill
N.C. Botanical Garden
(919) 962-0522
www.ncbg.unc.edu

"Diane Arbus: Family Albums"
Through Dec. 4,
Winston-Salem
Reynolda House Museum
(336) 888-1149
www.reynoldahouse.org

"Soldiers: The Global War on Terrorism"
Through Dec. 2005,
Fayetteville, Airborne & Special Operations Museum
(866) 547-0649
www.asomf.org

"Strange Matters"
Through Jan. 8, Durham
N.C. Museum of Life and Science,
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmls.org

"Renaissance to Rococo"
Through Jan. 15,
Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art
(704) 337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org

COAST

"Pocosin Arts: The First Ten Years"
Nov. 1–Dec. 30, Manteo
The Art Gallery
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

"The Rainbow Fish"
Nov. 5, Greenville
(800) 328-2787
www.ecuarts.com

Annual Bass Fishing Tournament
Nov. 5, Edenton
(252) 482-5343

Annual Museum Fest
Nov. 6, Richlands
(910) 324-5008
www.co.onslow.nc.us/museum

Munich Symphony Orchestra with Philippe Entremont
Nov. 8, Greenville
(800) 328-2787
www.ecuarts.com

"The Road to Bethlehem"
Nov. 8–Dec. 17, Edenton
(252) 482-4621

Mistletoe Show
Nov. 11–13, Elizabeth City
(252) 338-3927

Farm Heritage Fair
Nov. 12, Williamston
(252) 792-4131
www.martincountync.com

N.C. Barrel Bonanza
Nov. 18–19, Williamston
(252) 442-8989

Manteo Rotary Rockfish Rodeo
Nov. 19, Manteo
(252) 473-6644
www.rockfishrodeo.com

Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk
Nov. 23, Duck
(800) 238-4235
www.active.com

A Dickens Holiday
Nov. 25, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776
www.TheArtsCouncil.com

Christmas Parade
Nov. 26, Belhaven
(252) 943-3770
www.belhavenchamber.com

Ultimate Saturday Series
Nov. 26, Rocky Mount
(252) 454-0085
www.gamecrazy.com

Festival of Trees
Nov. 26–Dec. 4, Wilmington
(800) 773-1476
www.hospicefestivaloftrees.org

"PilobolusToo"
Dec. 1, Greenville
(800) 328-2787
www.ecuarts.com

ECU Symphony
Dec. 3, Oriental
(252) 249-3362

Christmas Parade
Dec. 3, Manteo
(252) 473-1912

Oakwood Waits Holiday Concert
Dec. 3, Manteo
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

"Messiah" by G.F. Handel
Dec. 5, Murfreesboro
(252) 398-6201
www.chowan.edu/acadp/music/events.htm

Listing Information

Deadlines:
For January: November 25
For February: December 25

Submit Listings Online: Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click "See NC" to add your event to the magazine and/or our Web site. Or e-mail events@carolinacountry.com

GO ONLINE
www.carolinacountry.com

Do You Have Diabetes? Are You on Medicare?

If you answered "yes" to both questions, the cost of your diabetes testing supplies may be covered!*

Know the Facts About Medicare Coverage for Individuals with Diabetes. Liberty Medical Supply is the nation's leader in home delivery of diabetes testing supplies. We are a Medicare participating provider You could be eligible for our complete home delivery program of diabetes testing supplies, and the cost may be covered by Medicare.

*Co-payments and deductibles apply.

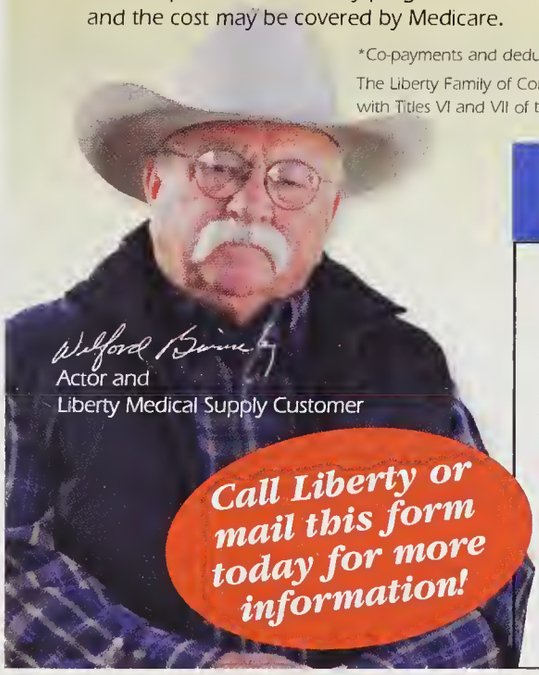
The Liberty Family of Companies is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

No Up-front Costs.* You pay no money up front when you order diabetes testing supplies from Liberty. With qualified supplemental insurance, you may owe nothing at all.

No Claim Forms to Fill Out. We will bill Medicare and your supplemental insurance company for you.

No Charge for Shipping. Your order will be delivered to your home with no charge for shipping. You won't have to stand in pharmacy lines or go out in bad weather.

To Learn if You are Eligible, Call Us Toll-Free:



1-800-353-0946

Diabetes Testing Supplies • Respiratory Medications • Prescription Medications • A1c Testing • Ostomy Supplies

Find Out How Liberty Can Help You Live a Healthier Life.

Yes, I would like to know more about home delivery of diabetes testing supplies from Liberty.

First Name MI Last Name
Address Apt. # Telephone ( )
City State Zip Code
Email
Signature (By signing this reply form, you are authorizing the Liberty Family of Companies to contact you by telephone.)

Mail this Reply Form to: Liberty Medical Supply
PO Box 20005, Fort Pierce, FL 34 979-0005

Or, Call Liberty Toll-Free at 1-800-353-0946.

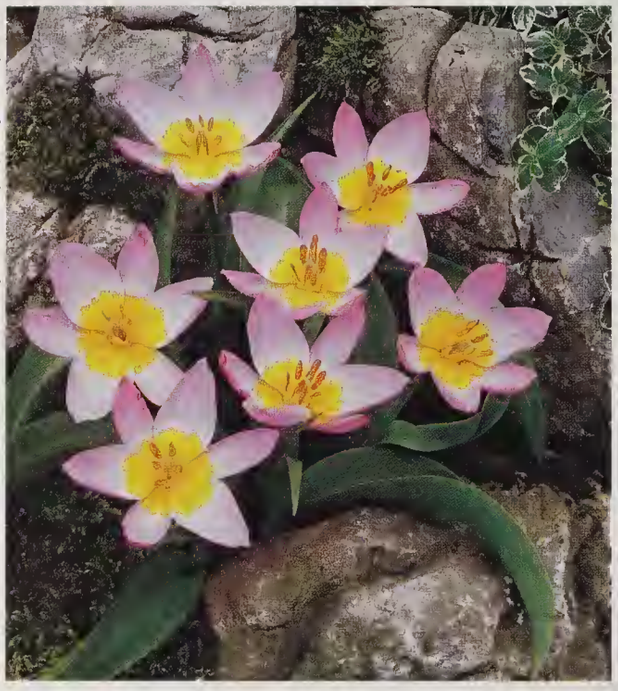
Liberty
We Deliver Better Health

By Carla Burgess

Perennial Tulips

Tulips are often linked to the Netherlands, where the flower was largely hybridized and which supplies the bulk of commercial bulbs today. But the tulip's main provenance and center of diversity is Turkey and surrounding regions, where more than 100 species still grow wild.

Nursery-grown species tulips can be found on the market today, though the selection is more limited than hybrids. But these beauties are worth seeking out. Unlike hybrid tulips, which are generally treated as annuals, species tulips are true perennials that multiply rapidly. The cheery flowers are available in an array of solid or bicolor shades; they are starlike or cup-shaped, and a single stem often bears several flowers. Most varieties are shorter in stature than hybrids.



Courtesy of John Scheepers, www.johnscheepers.com

The species tulip variety 'Lilac Wonder' is 7 inches tall with large, rose-lilac flowers.

Species tulips are well suited for rock gardens or other spots with excellent drainage in full sun—raised beds and containers are also appropriate sites. Not only can species tulips take the heat, they thrive on it.

Plant your bulbs when the ground has cooled to about 60 degrees, usually by November or December. Do not place fertilizer in the planting holes, but rather broadcast 7-10-5 bulb fertilizer over soil after planting, then water. Fertilize again when first shoots appear and when foliage dies back after blooming.

Mail-order nurseries offer more choices than retail outlets. John Scheepers, (860) 567-0838, www.johnscheepers.com, has a particularly large selection that includes 31 varieties. Another source is Brent and Becky's Bulbs, (804) 693-3966, www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com

Native Trees that Please

Serviceberry, with its clusters of showy, white blossoms, is a welcome harbinger of spring, though lesser known than the eastern dogwood. It is sometimes called "shadblow" or "shadbush" because historically its bloom has coincided with the early spring migration of shad into coastal rivers. Serviceberry's flowers often appear earlier than those of eastern dogwood. Blooms are followed by edible, reddish-to-purple berries, which may be used in jams, jellies and pies. Serviceberry is adaptable to a range of exposures and soil types, from sun to partial shade and moist to dry soil. The species *Amelanchier canadensis* has a low, shrubby form, and may grow 6 to 20 feet tall. *Amelanchier arborea* (downy serviceberry) and *laevis* (Allegheny serviceberry) grow taller, 15 to 25 feet.

Paw paw, a small tree (12 to 30 feet) of tropical lineage, produces 3- to 6-inch yellow fruits with a creamy texture and a flavor that resembles bananas, mangos or papayas. The palatability of wild fruits varies, but named cultivars should produce consistently tasty fruit. To ensure cross-pollination necessary for fruiting, two unrelated species should be planted together. Fruit ripens in autumn. Native to the eastern United States, paw paws can tolerate light to moderate shade, but fruit production is greater in full sun. Some protection from sun is critical in the first year or two for young transplants—this can be done with artificial shelters. Moist, slightly acidic soil is best. The tree can adapt to low-lying, wet areas where other trees don't thrive.

River birch is especially handsome in winter, when its peeling bark shows to best advantage. Depending on variety, the bark may be white, brown, cinnamon or orange in color. Though it occurs naturally in moist environments, river birch is also adaptable to drier soils. Its graceful form is attractive year-round. Wild species grow 40 to 70 feet. A dwarf variety, 'Little King', grows to only 10 feet and makes an excellent specimen plant. An exciting new weeping form, 'Summer Cascade', was discovered by nurserymen in North Carolina and is now widely available. Left untrained, it develops a shrubby form with layers of arching branches. It can also be staked or trained to form a central trunk of desired height.

Hort Shorts

- November and December are perfect times to plant dormant shrubs and trees. In winter and early spring, the plant's energy is focused on healthy root development.
- Sow annual seeds of poppy, love-in-a-mist, larkspur, and bachelor's button directly in the garden for spring bloom.
- Mulch strawberries with 3 to 6 inches of pine needles or straw.
- To protect from freezing, keep garden hoses and nozzles drained.
- Remove spent flowers from pansies to encourage new bloom. Remove and discard any yellowed or diseased leaves.

GO ONLINE

Carla Burgess can be reached at ncgardenshare@mindspring.com

For more gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of www.carolinacountry.com

FABRAL

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY

Horse Barns • Garages • Storage Buildings • Hay Barns LLC

$7995*
Galvanized/Enclosed
30x50x10

30-Year Ceramic-based paint colors and other sizes available.

100% Financing WAC

N.C. Lic.#52845

*Price Includes: Materials, delivery, construction, a 10' or 12' sliding door, factory pre-engineered trusses, one walk-in door with key, 6 evelights and One-Year Warranty on labor and materials.

- Fully insured for your protection
- Visa, Mastercard, AmEx accepted
- Call for a Free Brochure & Estimate
- Codes may affect prices

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5; Sat 8-noon CST

1-888-427-BARN (2276)
Fax (615) 325-2701
www.nationalbarn.com
nbced@mindspring.com

Apex Building Systems, Inc.

Do It Yourself and $ave!
Easy Bolt Up I-Beam Construction
Commercial- Industrial- Agricultural Buildings
Over 10,000 Sizes Available!
Call Today for a Free Price Quote & Brochure
50x100x12 $17,900.00 40x60x12 $9,300.00
****Ask About Our Huge Power Tool Give Away!!****
Mini Storage Quotes Available

Toll Free: 877-275-APEX (2739)
Toll Free Fax: 877-275-2701
www.apexbuilding.com

The Original LOG CABIN HOMES

Cedar, Cypress & Pine Log Home Packages
1.800.562.2246
www.logcabinhomes.com

NURSERY STOCK & SEED

GROW HALF DOLLAR SIZE MUSCADINES & BLACKBERRIES, FREE CATALOG.
200 varieties fruit, nut trees, vines & berries.
1-800-733-0324. ISON'S NURSERY,
Brooks, Georgia 30205
www.isons.com

CALL TODAY FOR SPECIALS

Steel Buildings
FACTORY DIRECT
ICON BUILDING SYSTEMS
888-798-8794

KENTUCKY STEEL TRUSS BUILDINGS INC.

FREE CATALOGUE
1-859-745-0606
www.kstbuild.com

20/90

24x30x8	$4,595
30x36x8	$5,595
40x48x10	$9,295
50x60x12	$14,495
60x80x12	$20,695
75x80x14	$27,595

New Look! The Hobsteel
AMERICA'S BEST BUY since 1986

*Prices subject to change without notice
FARM • CHURCH • SPORTS • HORSE • CAR • PLANE
ALL STEEL • ALL COLOR • 25/50 WARRANTY

Enjoy Radiant Soapstone Warmth

WOOD or GAS

5 Reasons Soapstone is Better!

- Soapstone holds twice as much heat as metal.
- The heat is steady, even and comfortable.
- Soapstone has a proven record of durability.
- It has beautiful color, texture and marbling.
- Variations in the stone make each stove unique.

FREE COLOR CATALOG

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Woodstock Soapstone Co., Inc.
66 Airpark Rd., Dept. 2370, West Lebanon, NH 03784

www.woodstove.com
1-888-664-8188

Mobile Home Owners
Protect Your Home Now!

BBB MEMBER NORTH WEST NORTH CAROLINA

Insulated Roofing Systems
- Stops Roof Leaks
- Stops Roof Condensation
- Stops Roof Rumble
- Maintenance Free

Vinyl Replacement Tilt-in Windows
- Easy to Clean
- Better Insulation

Premium Vinyl Siding
- Beautiful New Home Look
- Many Styles & Colors Available
- Adds Value to your Home
- FREE Window Shutters with Purchase

Lowers Heating & Cooling Bills
Guaranteed Lifetime Warranty
Financing available with approved credit
No Money Down — Affordable Payments
For a FREE No Obligation Estimate Call:

Mobile Home Exteriors
1-800-849-5715

The Toughest Glue On Planet Earth.

Bonds hundreds of materials including wood, stone, metal, ceramic & more! Incredibly strong & 100% waterproof!

1-800-966-3458 • www.gorillaglue.com

Gorilla Tough

Now on a roll.

Introducing Gorilla Tape, from the Gorilla Glue people. To us, it's the way a tape should be — The Toughest on Planet Earth.

1-800-966-3458 • www.gorillatape.com

By James Dulley

Nutone/Broan

Central vacuum cleaners remove allergens best

Installing a central vacuum cleaner is probably your best vacuum system option for removing allergens from your home's air if someone has allergies. Even though small portable, powerful canister vacuum cleaners have high quality HEPA filters, the exhaust air and some internal leaks will still release some very fine particles into the air.

I have allergies to mold, dust mites and pollen myself, and I use a central vacuum cleaner often in my own home. A good quality HEPA canister vacuum still comes in handy, though, for quick cleaning of small areas. Today's central vacuum systems have lightweight hoses, but they are still somewhat cumbersome for small cleanups.

If a primary concern is removing allergens, then venting the central vacuum cleaner outdoors is certainly an option, but not necessarily the best. Doing this will draw conditioned (heated and cooled) air from inside your home. This will increase the load on your furnace and central air conditioner, which also increases your utility bills.

When the conditioned indoor air gets drawn outdoors from your home it is replaced by outdoor air, which leaks in through cracks around windows, doors and the foundation. If a resident's allergies are primarily to pollen and other outdoor-generated allergens, the outdoor air that gets drawn indoors may contain more allergens than were in the indoor air initially.

When outdoor air is drawn indoors, it can bring with it a good amount of humidity, unless you have a heat recovery ventilation system with an enthalpic heat exchanger. Humidity may exacerbate allergies from indoor sources such as mold spores.

With the multi-stage filtration systems that most central vacuum systems have, indoor venting is usually preferable. Some of the manufacturers offer units, such as Beam's Serenity Plus, with extra soundproofing, exhaust filters and mufflers to reduce the noise level indoors. Utility rooms and basements are common indoor locations for the central power unit.

Mounting the power unit in an attached garage is also an option. Although this still draws conditioned air out of the house into the garage, it will moderate the garage temperature. If the garage has common walls with the house, drawing air into it is not a total loss of energy. Also, the direct hose inlet in the power unit makes it convenient for cleaning the car or other dirty items in the garage. A garage-mount may make it easier to get the vacuum pipes up into the attic in a single-story house.

More powerful models have greater cleaning power, so they are generally your best choice if you can afford their higher prices. A more powerful one will clean faster and more thoroughly, so the additional amount of electricity used is offset by less running time. If your budget is limited, most manufacturers and dealers have guidelines for the recommended minimum amount of cleaning power required for various-sized homes.

Cleaning power of any vacuum, including portable ones, is measured in air watts. Using a mathematical formula, the manufacturers combine the airflow rate (cfm - cubic feet per minute) and the suction (inches of water column lift) to determine the air watts. Air watts for central systems range from about 400 to more than 900. If you cannot find the air watts rating for a system, the cfm airflow rate is the next best measurement of cleaning effectiveness.

It is possible to install a central vacuum system yourself, but most people have one installed by the dealer. The systems use PVC piping that is assembled similarly to plastic drainage pipe in your home. In a two-story home such as mine, the main pipe is run in the corner of a first-floor closet to the second floor. To obtain the maximum cleaning power at each inlet, plan the piping to minimize its length and the number of bends and elbows.

Safe low-voltage wiring is run along the piping to each wall inlet. The inlet cover has low-voltage metal contacts that switch the power unit on when the hose is inserted into the inlet. MD Manufacturing has an optional remote electronic control system, Power3, which eliminates the need for the low-voltage wiring to each inlet. This simplifies installation, eliminates future broken wire problems and makes it compatible with fully automated home systems.

The following companies offer central vacuum cleaners:

Beam 800-369-2326
www.beamvac.com

Electrolux 800-896-9756
www.electroluxusa.com

Eureka 800-282-2886
www.eurekaco.com

MD Manufacturing 800-997-2278
www.builtinvacuum.com

Nutone 888-336-3948
www.nutone.com

You may send inquiries to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com

Copyright © 2005 James Dulley is an engineer and syndicated columnist for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Business Opportunities

NEW! GROW EXPENSIVE PLANTS, 2000% Profit, Earn to $50,000, Free Information Growbiz, Box 3738-NC11, Cookeville, TN 38502–www.growbiz-abco.com

WATKINS SINCE 1868. Top Ten Home Business. 350 products everyone uses. Free catalog packet. 1-800-352-5213.

PIANO TUNING PAYS: Learn with American School Home-Study Course. 1-800-497-9793.

INVENTORS: We help submit ideas to industry. Patent services. 1-888-439-IDEA.

SHAW OESIGNS OFFERS a variety of graphic design services. Special rates for small businesses! Contact Karen Glidden at 910-818-9264 or Glidden514@aol.com

OWN SOMETHING OF VALUE and beauty, get paid daily. Powerful 3 minute message 212-990-6500. www.artandopportunity.com

VENICE, FLORIOA CONOO–1 Bdrm/1 Bath, 100 yards from Venice Beach, 3 month minimum January thru April–rates $1900 month 704-243-0087.

PUBLISH YOUR OWN BOOK! Let us show you how. Free info: Empire Publishing, PO Box 717, Madison, NC 27025. 336-427-5850. www.empirepublishinginc.com

BE YOUR OWN BOSS. In today's job market who really knows what tomorrow will really bring? Take charge of your future today. For more information call 877-277-0846 or visit us online at www.TheESource.com/JMaidment.

TIREO OF SKYROCKETING GAS PRICES? Get 35% more gas mileage on all gas/diesel engines!!! 100% environmentally safe! Johnny Rutherford endorsed! www.JReischman.myextremeresearch.com 704-764-4466.

Vacation Rental

VACATION CABIN in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Real chink logs, jacuzzi, fireplace and covered porch. No smoking–No pets. 828-627-6037. www.treasurecovecabins.com

"CABIN FEVER!" Cozy vacation cabin at Twin Harbor Resort on Lake Tillery, near Morrow Mountain State and Uwharrie National Parks. $85.00 nightly, multiple night discounts. Open year-round. 919-542-1958. www.getcabinfever.com

ATLANTIC BEACH, NC. 3BR, 2BA, sleeps 6, ocean accesses, all amenities, $675/week. 252- 240-2247 or 252-826-4797.

EMERALD ISLE, NC–CAMP OCEAN FOREST Campground. Camping next to the ocean. Call for rates and reservations 252-354-3454. www.campoceanforest.com

PRIVATELY OWNEO MOUNTAIN GETAWAYS–Creekside Cabins are nestled in the Blue Ridge Mtns. along the NC/VA border. Private hot tubs! Browse our photo gallery to choose one of our custom-built cabins. www.highmountaincabins.com 800-238-8733

SMOKY MOUNTAINS–GATLINBURG, TN–Love and memories begin here in our chalet. For details call today 1-866-316-3255–or www.HillsHideaway.com

MILL HOUSE LODGE–HENDERSONVILLE/FLAT ROCK, NC. Tranquil mountain lake setting, pool, cable, 1,2,3 bedrooms, kitchen, linens furnished, grills, canoes, paddle boat. Near Blue Ridge Parkway, Carl Sandburg Home, Flat Rock Play House, Biltmore Estate. 800-736-6073. www.millhouselodge.com

BEACH HOUSE, Cherry Grove, SC. 4BR/2B, sleeps 14. 828-478-3208.

Gold Maps

FUN. HOW TO PAN. Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, California. 1-321-783-4595. WWW.GOLDMAPS.COM

For Sale

USEO PORTABLE SAWMILLS! Buy/Sell. Call Sawmill Exchange 800-459-2148, 205-969-0007, USA & Canada, www.sawmillexchange.com

BAPTISTRY PAINTINGS–JOROAN RIVER SCENES. Customed Painted. Christian Arts, Goldsboro, NC 919-736-4166. www.christian-artworks.com

WIRELESS ORIVEWAY ALARMS alerts all traffic. Transmits 500 feet $179.00. 1-888-595-8574.

CHURCH PEWS, PULPITS, CHAIRS FOR SALE, new and used. Easy Payment Plan Available. Also cushions, stained glass, steeples. 252-975-9800 or www.pews.info

LOW MILEAGE ENGINES. Best Prices, delivery included! CARFAX mileage verification & 199 day warranty. www.wadesautoparts.com 800-709-9233 Member BBB.

POLICE IMPOUNDS! Hondas/Chevys/Jeeps, etc. Cars from $500! For listings 800-749-8104 x 2798.

HOMES FROM $10,000. Bankruptcies, Foreclosures & HUD's! 1–3 bedrooms! Listings 800-749-8106 x 1072

WIOE SELECTION OF OUTSTANOING collectible art featuring over 100 artists. www.canvascreations.igi-art.com

APPLE TREES–OLD SOUTHERN VARIETIES and modern disease resistant varieties; Free catalog; custom grafting and shipping available. Century Farm Orchards, David C. Vernon, Reidsville, NC 336-349-5709 or dcvernon@netpath.net

EXCELLENT CONOITION VERMONT CASTINGS black wood stove. Catalytic combustor, top/front loading $900.00. 336-746-4567.

MOUNTAIN CABIN NEAR BLOWING ROCK. "Shady Haven" www.goleatherwood.com Contact Phil Whitson.

Work Clothes

WORK CLOTHES! Good clean rental type. 6/pants & 6/shirts to match $34.95. Lined work jackets $9.95. Satisfaction guaranteed! 1-800-233-1853 Checks, MC/Visa Accepted. www.usedworkclothing.com.

Meat Processing Supplies

HOME BUTCHER SUPPLIES: Catalog or on-line shopping–(770) 535-7381. www.home-processor.com

Insurance

AFFOROABLE HEALTH INSURANCE–Major Medical with small co-pays for doctor visits, drugs and routine physicals. Also available–long term care, life and medicare supplements (Plan F–$95.00 up). 800-470-4415.

Miscellaneous

SUSPENDERS WITH PATENTED "No-Slip Clip". Free Catalog 800-700-4515–www.suspenders.com

PLAY GOSPEL SONGS BY EAR! 10 lessons $12.95. "Learn Gospel Music." Chording, runs, fills–$12.95. Both $24. Davidsons, 6727C Metcalf, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204.

PUT YOUR OLD HOME MOVIES or slides on videotape or DVD. 888-609-9778 or visit www.transferguy.com

SEPTIC SYSTEM PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE: Natural, Non-chemical. As little as 8 cents per day. www.pro-agdirect.com Call for FREE brochure. 800-599-9980.

BECOME AN ORDAINEO MINISTER, Correspondence study. Founded in 1988. Luke 17:2, Free information. Ministers for Christ Outreach, 6630 West Cactus, PMB 107, #B107, Glendale, AZ 85304. www.ordination.org

WWW.CAROLINAAUCTIONS.COM PIERCE AUCTION SERVICE AND REAL ESTATE, Inc. Real Estate, Estates and Business Liquidation auctions. Call toll free: 1-800-650-2427. North Carolina our home. Serving the Eastern United States–Since 1963.

POWER WHEELCHAIRS/LATEST MODELS! No cost to you if qualified. Covered by Medicare/Medicaid. Call toll-free 1-866-282-1610 for free information.

ATTENTION OIABETICS/NO MORE FINGERSTICKS! New monitor & all testing supplies at no cost to you if qualified. Covered by Medicare/Medicaid & private insurance. Call toll-free 1-866-282-1610 for free information.

WWW.BEACHLIFT.COM–Remote Control Outdoor Cargo Lifts Maintenance Free, 252-945-6822.

R. GILES MOSS AUCTION & REAL ESTATE-NCAL#2036. Specialize In: Real Estate, Business Liquidations, Equipment & Estates Web Site: www.gilesmossauction.com 1-800-230-7299.

FREE OIABETIC SUPPLIES for Medicare and Insured Patients Delivered to you FREE. Call 1-800-231-3214 www.shop4diabetics.com

INFLATABLES FOR RENT–for birthday parties, and special events, 16' slide with bounce room on the side, fire truck, bungie run. State inspected, call for reservations 252-995-6325.

SERVICE PROVIOING COMPANION/CAREGIVER for your elderly parents by day or night (919) 599-1293.

DISCOVER BIBLE SCHOOL–If you find the Bible to be a big mystery and desire a clearer understanding of what it says, these free lessons are for you, Post Office Box 1232, Candler, NC 28715.

IRON HORSE AUCTION COMPANY, Experience & Expertise in Real Estate, equipment and business liquidation auctions. 800-997-2248 NCAL 3936. www.ironhorseauction.com

The N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the services and products advertised. Readers are advised to understand fully any agreement or purchase they make.

CAROLINA COUNTRY CLASSIFIED ADS

Carolina Country classified ads cost $2 per word, prepaid. Minimum ad $20. Maximum 75 words. Same ad on Web site is $20 per month. Send ad and payment to Classifieds, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. For more information, or to pay by credit card, see our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com and click on the Advertising section.

Deadline: 25th of the month,
5 weeks before issue date.

Family-Style Turkey Potpie

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup cold butter
- ¾ to 1 cup cold water
- 4 cups cubed cooked turkey
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 can (10¾ ounces) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies, drained
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 green onions, sliced

In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Cut in butter until crumbly. Gradually add water, tossing with a fork until dough forms a ball. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; knead 10–12 times or until smooth.

Set aside a third of the dough. Roll remaining dough into a 15-by-11-inch rectangle. Transfer to an ungreased 11-by-7-by-2-inch baking dish.

In a bowl, combine turkey, cheese, soup, sour cream, onion, chilies and green onions. Spoon into crust. Roll out reserved dough; make a lattice crust. Place over filling; trim and flute edges. Bake at 400 degrees for 45–50 minutes or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly.

Yield: 6 servings

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send $2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com

Find more than 200 recipes and photos, and share your favorite recipes, at our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

Sweet Potato Mini Cakes

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 4 eggs
- 1¼ cups vegetable oil
- 3 cups shredded peeled sweet potatoes
- 1 teaspoon rum extract
- 1 can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Frosting

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 5 cups confectioners' sugar
- 4 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon rum extract
- 1½ cups ground walnuts

In a large mixing bowl, combine the first eight ingredients. Add eggs, oil, potatoes and extract; beat until combined. Stir in the pineapple, raisins and walnuts. Fill 12 greased or paper-lined jumbo muffin cups three-fourths full.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25–30 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

For frosting, in a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and butter until fluffy. Beat in the sugars and extracts until smooth. Frost sides of cakes; roll in walnuts. Place cakes upside down and frost tops with remaining frosting.

Yield: 1 dozen

Vegetable Stuffing Bake

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 cans (10¾ ounces each) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 cup processerd cheese sauce
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen cauliflower, thawed
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen corn, thawed
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen broccoli florets, thawed
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen Brussels sprouts, thawed and halved
- 1 package (6 ounces) corn bread stuffing mix, divided

In a large skillet, sauté onion in oil until tender. Stir in the soup and cheese sauce until blended; heat through. In a large bowl, combine the vegetables and 1 cup stuffing mix. Add soup mixture and mix well.

Transfer to two greased shallow 2-quart baking dishes. Sprinkle with remaining stuffing mix. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30–35 minutes or until vegetables are tender and edges are bubbly.

Yield: 2 casseroles (6–8 servings each)

UNC CHARLOTTE
DISTANCE EDUCATION

DEGREE & LICENSURE PROGRAMS

VIA THE WEB

Nursing Programs

- RN to BSN *(For Registered Nurse graduates of either an associate degree or diploma program who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree in nursing)*
- Master of Science in Nursing - Community Health, School Nurse & Population Options
- Post-Master's Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education *(For MSNs who are, or are interested in becoming, Nurse Educators)*

Teacher Education *Degree and/or Licensure*

- Middle and Secondary *(Fast Track-Lateral/Initial Licensure)*
- Academic or Intellectually Gifted *(Add-On/Graduate Certificate)*
- Child and Family Development - Early Intervention (B-K) *(Graduate Certificate)*

Engineering Technology

BS Engineering Technology Degree Completion (2+2)

- Electrical *(for applicants holding the Associate in Applied Science in Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation)*
- Fire Safety *(for applicants holding the Associate in Applied Science in Fire Science)*

INTERACTIVE TV

Special Education

- Adapted Curriculum Courses in Forsyth and Pitt Counties *(*grant funding for tuition & textbooks)*

**Must meet eligibility requirements*

- Lateral Entry/Initial Licensure in General Curriculum in Catawba, Gaston and Rowan Counties

And Others!

Contact UNC Charlotte's Distance Education Office for More Information on Programs and Admission

Call toll free 1-877-583-2966 (to request an Information Packet)
Email: DistanceED@email.uncc.edu (please put program interest in subject field)
Website: http://www.DistanceEd.uncc.edu (select "VISITORS" tab)

Electric Cooperative Members!

They are the ones you love the most...

Your family...the ones who share your dreams...

The children and grandchildren who make every day special...

Are they prepared for your final expenses?

We can help provide...

Peace *of* mind

for you and your loved ones today!

$5,000...$10,000... up to $35,000 today!

- Protection up to $35,000
- Benefits begin the first day
- No physical exam, based on coverage
- No waiting period
- Proceeds available immediately at death of insured
- Company cannot cancel your plan, reduce your benefits or raise your premium
- Can cost only pennies a day, increase your worth today to leave cash to help a grandchild with college tuition
- Designate cash to your favorite church or charity
- Whole life insurance policy 4-790(92) underwritten by Standard Life and Casualty Insurance Company

Give your loved ones Peace of Mind today!
Please send me more information:

Peace of Mind
3700 Forest Drive Suite 205
Columbia, SC 29204

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ Date of Birth_____

Mail today for Complete Details without Obligation! CC 11/05

Sample Monthly Rates per 1,000*

Issue Age	Female	Male
5	$.55	$.55
15	$.55	$.59
35	$1.08	$1.30
55	$2.53	$3.20
65	$4.14	$5.36
75	$7.64	$10.23
85	$16.52	$19.77

*DOES NOT INCLUDE POLICY FEE, MINIMUMS APPLY - SMOKER AND NONSMOKER
***not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency**